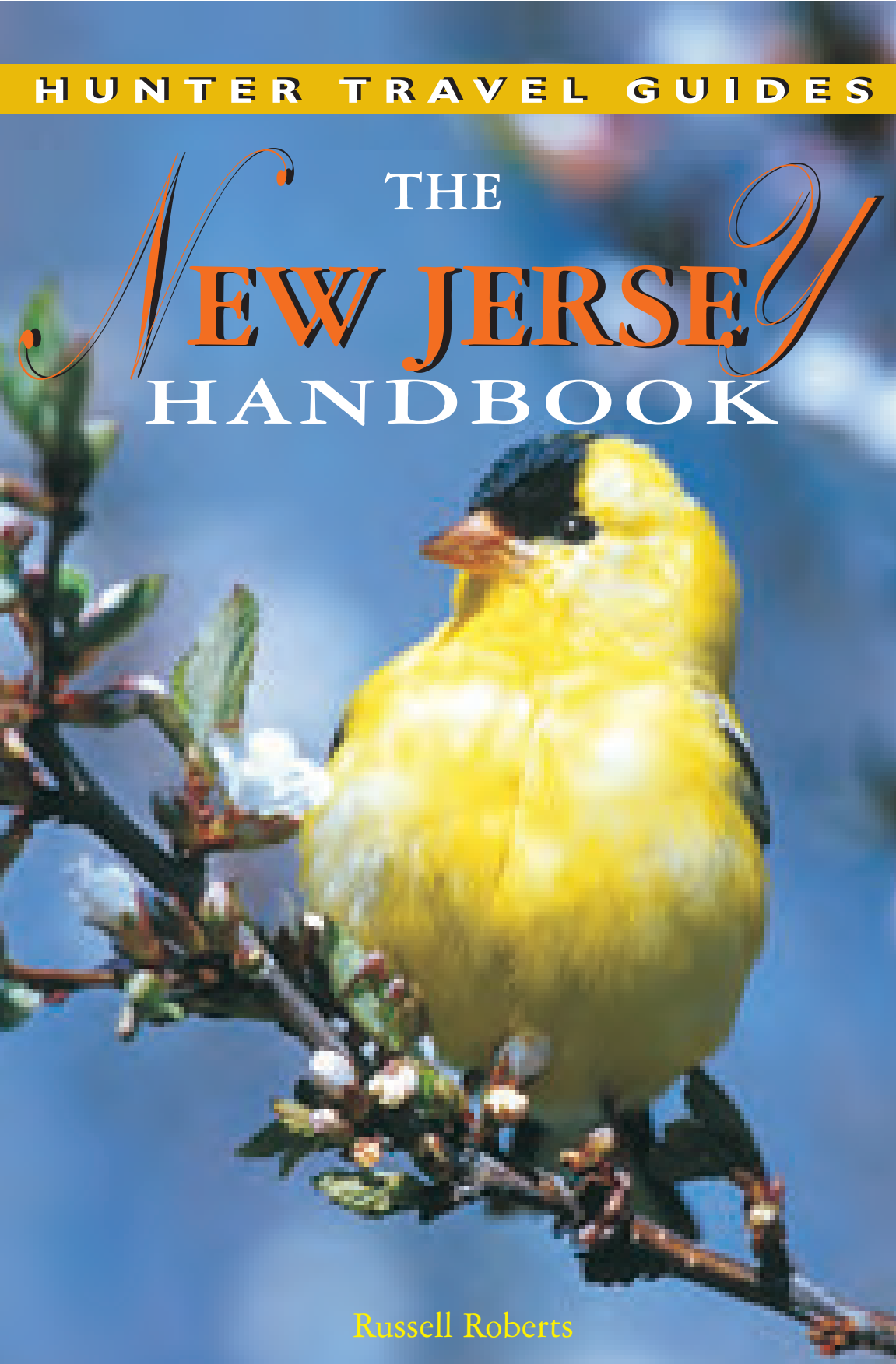
HUNTER TRAVEL GUIDES

THE NEW JERSEY HANDBOOK



Russell Roberts

VISIT…

THE NEW JERSEY HANDBOOK

Russell Roberts

HUNTER

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Introduction

This book is a response to those who don't think that there is anything to do in New Jersey. There is an ugly perception floating about that the Garden State contains nothing but landfills, turnpikes and asphalt.

Not true.

In reality, New Jersey is an incredibly diverse state with an amazing array of things to do. The state's small size makes getting to most places a trip of just a few hours.

There is, of course, the Shore, with its sandy beaches, cool ocean breezes and boardwalk amusements. But there is also Northwestern New Jersey – a region full of green rolling hills, magnificent valleys, and picturesque towns ignored by time. There are also the southern counties, with their wide-open spaces, lush farms, and celebration of a simpler way of life. Even the northern urban counties, which typically get dismissed as concrete jungles, have a surprising number of things to do and see, including zoos, arboretums, historic sites, and museums.

❖ ***Attention Shoppers!*** *Did you know that New Jersey has no sales tax on either clothing or shoes?*

We highlight the "best bets" in each county – places where you might like to go and spend a lazy day, or an afternoon away from home, along with listings for restaurants and accommodations. Each New Jersey county is unique, and each has a surprising number of things to do. This book is designed to help you make your initial discovery of each county and encourage you to discover everything it has to offer.

❦ ***Fun Fact:*** *Which white European explorer first set eyes on New Jersey? His name was Giovanni da Verrazano, and all he got for his troubles was a bridge named after him that isn't even in New Jersey. Born in 1485 in Florence, Italy – or perhaps Lyons, France (history isn't clear on that subject) – Verrazano came to America on a French-sponsored voyage of exploration in 1524. Among the points of land he reportedly saw were Cape May, Delaware Bay, and the Navesink Highlands. Unfortunately, the man who first saw New Jersey suffered a horrible end; on a trip to the Caribbean in 1528, he was attacked by Indians, who cut him up and ate him.*

The book also contains fascinating historical trivia and amazing facts. If there is something special about a particular restaurant, it's

included. All of the hotels and restaurants listed here are fine establishments, but their inclusion does not constitute an endorsement. There are many that have not been included. The listings are just to get you started.

Those of us who live in New Jersey don't realize how lucky we are. Just about every leisure pastime – amusement parks, historic sites, cultural attractions, beaches, boardwalks, parks and forests, and more – is located within our borders.

Whether you are a long-time resident, a new arrival, or a visitor, welcome to the great Garden State of New Jersey.

❖ ***NOTE:*** *Hours are listed for each attraction when appropriate. Most parks are open from sunrise to sunset. However,* ***call first*** *before heading out. Hours for attractions are frequently adjusted, and the on-going state budget woes may mean shortened hours at historic sites and other state-operated facilities.*

Did You Know…?

State animal	Horse
State bird	Eastern goldfinch
State bug	Honeybee
State dance	Square dance
State dinosaur	Hadrosaurus foulkii
State fish	Brook trout
State flower	Meadow violet
State shell	Conch
State tree	Red oak

❖ ***Fun Fact:*** *The shortest highway in America is in New Jersey. Route 59, clocking in at a whopping 792 feet, is located on the border of Cranford and Garwood. It was originally built in 1931 to be part of Route 22, but plans changed.*

The Atlantic Shore

Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic, Cape May Counties

Is there anyone who hasn't been to, or at least heard of, the Jersey Shore? Famous as the birthplace of the boardwalk, cherished as a relaxing getaway for young and old alike, and celebrated for its beautiful beaches, salt-tinged ocean breezes, and gorgeous vistas, the Jersey Shore is a place where memories are made and dreams are born (and sometimes even come true).

Since it is such a vacationer's paradise, the Atlantic coast has the most to do. Thus it seems only natural to start a guidebook here. We start with the northernmost Shore county, Monmouth, and work straight down the coast to Cape May, eschewing the alphabetical approach used in the rest of the book.

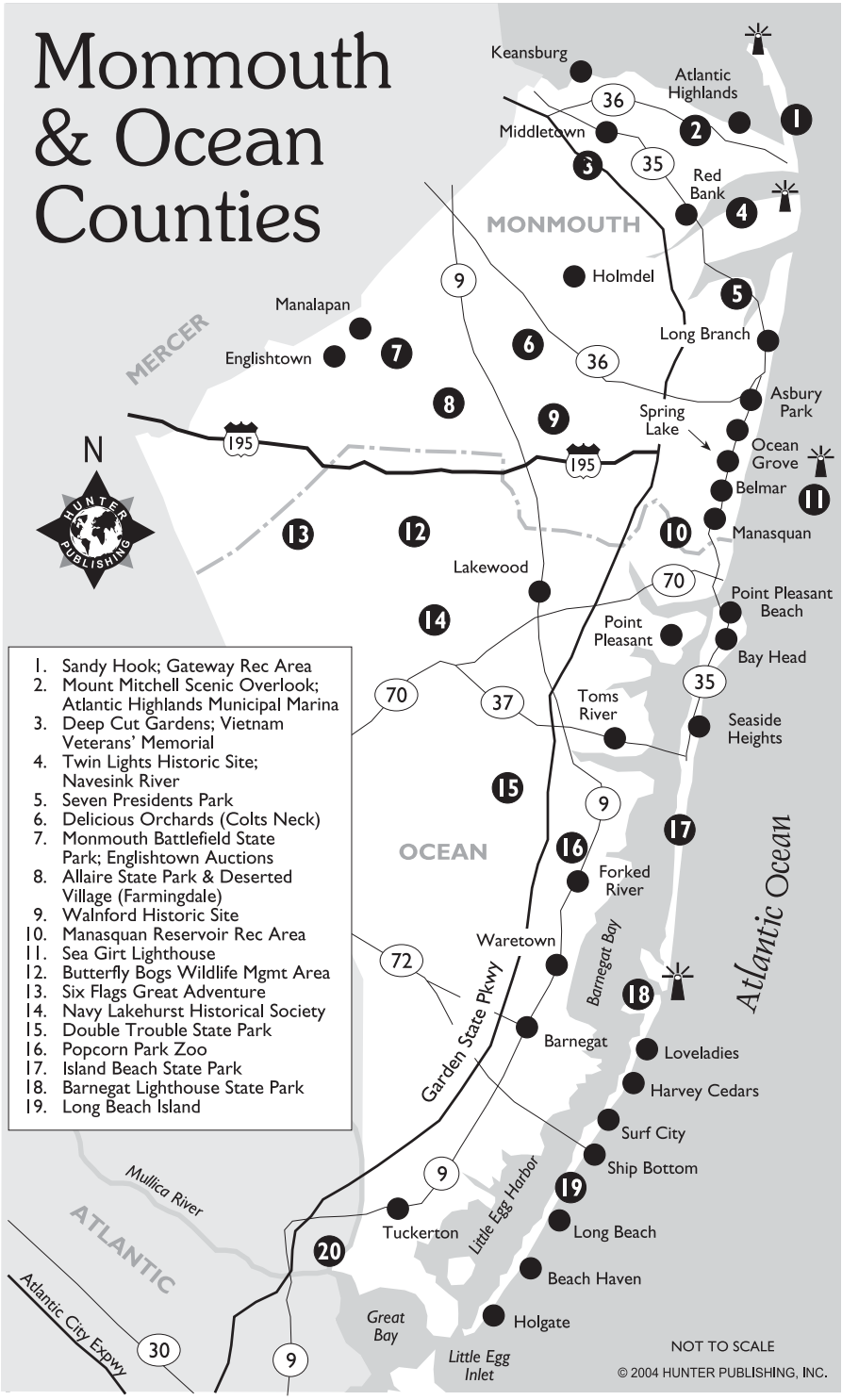
Although these counties revolve around the ocean and summertime, look closer; they have a lot more to offer than just the beach and boardwalk. Sure, the beaches are 127 miles of pure enjoyment, but there are flea markets, historic sites, and some unusual attractions, such as a zoo for sick and injured animals.

So if you don't swim, dislike seagulls, and have a natural aversion to sand, fear not. You just have to look around, and you'll discover choices galore at the Jersey Shore.

Monmouth County

Decades ago, before the completion of the Garden State Parkway, the words "Monmouth County" were synonymous with the Jersey Shore. Except for Atlantic City and Cape May farther south, practically all of the destinations associated with the Shore were in Monmouth County – Asbury Park, Keyport, Sandy Hook, Long Branch, Spring Lake, and the list goes on. Point Pleasant Beach? Seaside Heights? Long Beach Island? Never heard of them.

But then they built the Parkway, in part to open up the rest of the Shore to tourism. It did that, and more. Suddenly the entire coastline was open not only to vacationers, but to permanent residents. People drove down the Parkway, discovered the beauty of Ocean County, Atlantic County, and Cape May County, and decided to move there. The dust is still settling from the resulting building boom.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Keansburg
Atlantic Highlands
Middletown
Red Bank
MONMOUTH
Holmdel
Manalapan
Englishtown
MERCER
Long Branch
Asbury Park
Spring Lake
Ocean Grove
Belmar
Manasquan
Lakewood
Point Pleasant Beach
Point Pleasant
Bay Head
Toms River
Seaside Heights
OCEAN
Forked River
Waretown
Barnegat Bay
Atlantic Ocean
Garden State Pkwy
Barnegat
Loveladies
Harvey Cedars
Surf City
Ship Bottom
Long Beach
Beach Haven
Holgate
Tuckerton
Little Egg Harbor
Mullica River
ATLANTIC
Atlantic City Expwy
Great Bay
Little Egg Inlet
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
1. Sandy Hook; Gateway Rec Area
2. Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook; Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina
3. Deep Cut Gardens; Vietnam Veterans' Memorial
4. Twin Lights Historic Site; Navesink River
5. Seven Presidents Park
6. Delicious Orchards (Colts Neck)
7. Monmouth Battlefield State Park; Englishtown Auctions
8. Allaire State Park & Deserted Village (Farmingdale)
9. Walnford Historic Site
10. Manasquan Reservoir Rec Area
11. Sea Girt Lighthouse
12. Butterfly Bogs Wildlife Mgmt Area
13. Six Flags Great Adventure
14. Navy Lakehurst Historical Society
15. Double Trouble State Park
16. Popcorn Park Zoo
17. Island Beach State Park
18. Barnegat Lighthouse State Park
19. Long Beach Island
NOT TO SCALE
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Of course, the Parkway also brought tourists. Suddenly Point Pleasant, Seaside Heights, and other such places were on the map. Tourists came by the bushel full, and found a whole host of pretty, unspoiled coastal towns. Names like Somers Point and Bay Head became familiar. It used to be, during a winter snowstorm, that you could walk down the main street of one of these towns and not see a soul. Not any more.

Unfortunately, the Parkway's completion also diverted tourists from the "old Shore" – the Monmouth County towns that everyone had known and loved for so many years. In the 1960s and 1970s, once-vibrant resort areas lost a lot of their luster.

Thankfully, many of these places are undergoing a remarkable renaissance. Long Branch and Asbury Park, for example, have ambitious redevelopment plans in the works that, if they come true, will certainly have folks singing *Happy Days Are Here Again.*

Monmouth County Towns

Aberdeen	**Manalapan**
Allenhurst	**Manasquan**
Allentown	**Marlboro**
Asbury Park	**Matawan**
Atlantic Highlands	**Middletown**
Avon-by-the-Sea	**Millstone Township**
Belmar	**Monmouth Beach**
Bradley Beach	**Neptune**
Brielle	**Neptune Township**
Colts Neck	**Ocean Grove**
Deal	**Oceanport**
Eatontown	**Ocean Township**
Englishtown	**Red Bank**
Fair Haven	**Roosevelt**
Freehold Township	**Rumson**
Farmingdale Township	**Sea Bright**
Freehold	**Sea Girt**
Hazlet	**Shrewsbury**
Highlands	**Shrewsbury Township**
Holmdel	**South Belmar**
Howell	**Spring Lake**
Interlaken	**Spring Lake Heights**
Keansburg	**Tinton Falls**
Keyport	**Union Beach**
Loch Arbour	**Upper Freehold Twnp**
Long Branch	**Wall**
Little Silver	**West Long Branch**

But the misconception is that Monmouth County is only about the Shore towns. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is an awful lot to do in Monmouth that doesn't involve sun, sea and sand. Lots of folks don't know that Monmouth has one of New Jersey's best and most varied parks systems.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Remember that the beaches in Monmouth County are mainly privately owned, and thus require the infamous beach tags to allow access. If you have little ones who get tired of the beach after 15 or 20 minutes, consider going to one of the free municipal beaches. They're harder to find, but easier on the wallet.*

You can also save yourself a mess of green if you know early in the year where you're going to be plunking down your sandy bottom.

Some towns offer seasonal beach badges at reduced rates if you purchase them early enough. The savings definitely add up.

Assassination in Elberon

Did you know that James A. Garfield, 20th President of the United States, died in Elberon, which is a section of Monmouth County near the coast? Garfield was shot in July, 1880 in a Washington DC railroad station by a disgruntled office seeker named Charles Guiteau. Feverish and lying in his White House bed, Garfield suffered both from his wound and the unbearable Washington summer heat. Finally, it was decided to move the stricken President to the cooler climate of the Jersey Shore, in the hopes that he would survive.

On September 6th, Garfield was taken by a special train to a seaside cottage in Elberon. Showing a can-do spirit that's nearly vanished in American society, a group of volunteers built a six-tenths-mile spur of railroad track from the Elberon railroad station to the cottage – all in one night! But alas the work wasn't enough to save the wounded President's life. The Jersey Shore's comfortable climate couldn't work its magic in this case. Garfield died on September 19th.

The Sober Society: *As long as there has been alcohol, it seems, there have been people decrying its use. One of the first temperance groups in the young United States was based in 1805 in Allentown, Monmouth County. It was called the Allentown Sober Society.*

Best Bets

Twin Lights State Park (Lighthouse Road, Highlands, ☎ 732-872-1814). Located in the face of a hill, Twin Lights State Park is a brownstone lighthouse that resembles a medieval fortress. It has two light towers, the north and south, separated by a 300-foot service structure.

Only the north tower is consistently open to visitors. The south is open only when staffing permits. Even so, if you can make the 64-step climb to the top of the north tower, it's worth it. The view from 200 feet up of the nearby ocean, the town of Sea Bright, and Sandy Hook is well worth it. On a clear day, you can even see the New York skyline. And even if the day isn't totally clear, you can still see almost

all of the nearby coastline, including the incredibly thin and fragile Sea Bright nearby.

❖ ***TIP:*** *Climbing up a lighthouse normally takes stamina, courage, and frequent rest stops – unless it's the Twin Lights North Tower. The steps are not steep (although they are narrow), and the climb itself not difficult. The top is surrounded by a high wrought-iron fence.*

The two towers of Twin Lights are connected by a large service structure that houses a museum filled with lighthouse memorabilia. The museum is quite interesting, detailing the history of the Twin Lights structure. Recognizing early on the value of this elevation to navigation, man has been trying to put a lighthouse on this site for a very long time. The story of their attempts is told here.

The lighthouse grounds contain several sites of note. Twin Lights Mystery Cannon is at "the front" of the lighthouse (the side facing the ocean). What is it and what is its purpose? No one knows. A stone overlook sits on the edge of the hill across from the cannon. It lists many of the sites visible from that elevation.

There are also picnic benches on the site, which afford the visitor a nice spot for lunch. It's often windy at Twin Lights because of its elevation, and a lighthouse lunch can be quite comfortable in the blazing heat of summer, when everyone down below is sweating.

Marconi's New Invention

Twin Lights is where Guglielmo Marconi first came in 1899 to demonstrate his new invention, the radio. He was invited by James Gordon Bennett, publisher of the *New York Herald,* to report on the America's Cup races that were taking place off Sandy Hook. He erected a receiving pole at the lighthouse site, to which he broadcast race results from a ship out in the ocean. The giant iron rings that held the guidewires for the receiving pole can still be seen – real pieces of history. An audio program narrated by Marconi's daughter talks about this famous event.

Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook, ☎ 732-872-5970, www.nps.gov/gate). Sandy Hook is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area, a federal recreation area that includes the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Brooklyn and Queens, Breezy Point, also in Queens, and the Staten Island sections. Sandy Hook is a long, sandy peninsula just across from Twin Lights, with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and Sandy Hook Bay on the other. The park truly offers something for just about

everyone. Like hiking or walking around enjoying natural beauty? Like exploring historic military bases? Like picnicking in the glory of nature? Like swimming? Like exploring the oldest working lighthouse on the East Coast? Like fishing? You can do them and more at Sandy Hook.

- ***Tip:*** *Even when the parking fee is in effect, Sandy Hook can be entered for free by bicyclists or those on foot.* ***Bicycling*** *around Sandy Hook is one of the best ways to see this unique park. There are paved roads and no hills. However, the roads do not have shoulders, so there is no place for a cyclist to escape to. Be careful! In addition, note that in the winter months Sandy Hook can be cold, with a brutal bay wind that would give a penguin pause.*

Your first stop at Sandy Hook should be the **Spermaceti Cove Visitor Center**. Signs clearly point visitors to it after you enter the park. Besides helping you get oriented to all that Sandy Hook has to offer, it also has historical exhibits and environmental information. After that, travel deeper into the park and pick the activity that you like best.

- ***Tip:*** *If you're a fan of natural living, head to* ***Gunnison Beach****, Area G, a clothing-optional (as in nude) beach.*

Besides swimming, picnicking, fishing, and communing with nature, Sandy Hook contains the abandoned buildings of **Fort Hancock**. Several have been restored for visitation, and guests can get a feel of what it was like when the fort resounded with the tramping feet and "TEN-HUT" sounds of thousands and thousands of soldiers. Sandy Hook used to be a major military institution, and all around you are the ghosts of its past life. Fort Hancock/Sandy Hook also used to be the US Army's proving ground – the place where they tested new weapons. (The proving ground has since moved to Maryland.) This explains why so many of the Fort Hancock buildings had metal roofs – so that when the big guns were discharged, plaster didn't come tumbling down from the ceiling!

- ***Tip****: Fort Hancock can be toured (by foot, preferably) for free with the aid of a brochure entitled* ***Fort Hancock History Tour****. Pick it up at the Spermaceti Cove Visitor Center or at the Sandy Hook Museum in Fort Hancock.*

The park also contains the recently restored **Sandy Hook Lighthouse**, the oldest operating lighthouse in the country. It was built in 1764, and reports say that it was so sturdily made that cannon balls fired at it during the American Revolution bounced off without causing damage.

The lighthouse has recently undergone restoration/renovation, and it's fun to climb up and get a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside. However, some words of warning. Tours are given from April to November by volunteers from the New Jersey Lighthouse Society only during weekends on the half-hour from noon to 4:30. They take only eight people at a time, so you can see the advantage of arriving early (around noon or before) and getting on the tour list. You must be at least 48 inches tall in order to climb the lighthouse.

❦ ***Not-So-Fun Fact:*** *When the Sandy Hook Lighthouse was completed in 1764, it was approximately 500 feet from the tip of the island. Today it stands nearly 1½ miles from the tip, and the distance is increasing every year. Erosion and water action have been slowly taking sand from the south end of Sandy Hook and re-depositing it at the north end. This is why Sandy Hook is getting narrower at its south end, and why bad storms lately have been destroying the two-lane roadway leading into Sandy Hook at its southern tip.*

Sandy Hook contains one of the largest, and oldest, **holly forests** on the East Coast. The forest is located near Horseshoe Cove, and is accessible only via guided ranger tours. If you're interested in viewing this natural wonder, call first to find out the schedules.

❖ ***TIP****: Sandy Hook charges a parking fee between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and none thereafter. So if you're going for a reason other than to escape summer's sweltering heat, consider waiting. In addition, the park gets extremely crowded very early in the morning on summer weekends or holidays and, once it's full, the gates close and no more cars are allowed in.*

Sandy Hook and surrounding towns, such as Keyport, Atlantic Highlands, Highlands and Keansburg, constitute what is popularly known as the **Bayshore**. Visitors to the Bayshore will find a lot to like in this area; just keep in mind that it is very much geared toward the day-tripper. You're not going to find large hotels here with familiar names. If you can't live without a mint on your pillow or a newspaper delivered to your room in the morning, you're going to be in for a rude awakening. The Monmouth County Department of Tourism publishes a list of accommodations on their website (www.visitmonmouth.com/tourism). Many of those are listed at the end of this chapter and some have their own websites.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Where can fishermen fish, or crabbers crab, for free? The* ***Keyport Fishing Pier*** *on American Legion Drive, that's where!*

Belmar (Belmar, ☎ 732-681-3700, www.belmar.com). Belmar is heaven for college kids in the summer. It's the closest you'll get in Monmouth County to the fast-moving boardwalks in other counties, like Point Beach or Seaside Heights. There are also some bars and nightclubs. However, the beach is wide, clean, and long, and a day spent sunning and swimming at Belmar is extremely pleasant. There are enough arcades and rides to keep the little ones satisfied. One unique thing about Belmar is that virtually all of the attractions are on the opposite side of the street from the boardwalk.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *In 1993 the Fox TV network carried a comedy show called* Down the Shore. *It featured the antics of a group of kids who rented a beach house. Where? In Belmar.*

The boardwalk itself is practically clear of attractions. So, if you're in the mood for a quiet beachfront stroll, and your powers of concentration are acute, you can block out the pandemonium going on just across the street and just imagine that you're totally alone – just you and the boardwalk.

Party Boat Heaven

Belmar is nirvana for fishermen. It has the largest party boat fleet in New Jersey. Dozens of party boats steam out from the Belmar Marina in Shark River Park (located away from the boardwalk area, on Route 35) at all hours of the day and night, carrying fishermen mainly to the mud hole off of Sandy Hook, where fish just naturally congregate and wait to be caught.

If you have a guy or gal in your family who loves to bait a hook and get up close and personal with a worm, take them to Shark River Park. If that means one of you is left with the kids, head to Shark River Park's playground area, which also has hiking trails. There is also some limited swimming at the park.

Monmouth Battlefield State Park (347 Freehold-Englishtown Road, Manalapan, ☎ 732-462-9616; dawn to dusk). Now we leave the shore and go inland, to one of the unknown gems of New Jersey. Monmouth Battlefield State Park is the site of the pivotal Battle of Monmouth (sometimes called the Battle of Freehold) of the Revolutionary War. Spread out over 1,810 acres, the park offers an exhibit-filled visitor's center that describes the battle and key participants, playgrounds, a nature center, picnic areas, and more open space than

you can shake a musket at. You can frolic, play catch, sunbathe, paint, read, or do any of a thousand and one other things in a secluded nook of the park.

> ***Historical Fact:*** *The Battle of Monmouth was the largest and longest of the American Revolution. It was the last major land battle fought in the north. The fight introduced Molly Pitcher into the pages of American history. It was also at this battle that George Washington angrily relieved General Charles Lee, and reportedly swore at him in a burst of profanity so salty that trees trembled and leaves shook.*

This is a very pretty site that allows plenty of room to roam, or the opportunity to hide away somewhere if that's what you want.

> ***The Battle Re-enacted:*** *One of the biggest historical re-enactments in the entire country takes place here. It's held annually on June 28th, or the weekend closest to that date. There are authentically garbed soldiers, plus merchants, women and kids dressed in period clothing.*

Just for kicks, search for the reported source of **Molly Pitcher's well** at the intersection of Wemrock Road and Route 522. You'll be surprised at where and what the park says it is. Then try to figure out how Molly would have brought water from it to the battlefield.

For the Kids

The kids are bored; history isn't their thing, and they can take only so much of this "glory-of-nature" stuff. In and around Monmouth Battlefield State Park are several other activities to get them interested. There's the Owl Haven Nature Center, the historic Craig House, and a fishing pond (Liberty Grove Pond) for children under 14.

Owl Haven is a hospital of sorts for raptors that is run by the New Jersey Audubon Society. It has displays of both live and stuffed animals, and contains a lot of fascinating information about the owl.

The restored **Craig House** is a home built in the early 1700s that used to belong to the paymaster of the New Jersey militia.

Outside of the park there is **Battlefield Orchards**, a pick-your-own fruit farm. It usually has something that can be harvested from early summer through late autumn.

Manasquan Reservoir Recreation Area (311 Windeler Road, Howell Township, ☎ 732-919-0996, www.monmouthcountyparks.com). Any facility with such a dreary-sounding name has to be a drag, right? Wrong. Manasquan Reservoir rocks, with a spectacular view of the four-billion-gallon reservoir and enough activities to

please everyone. It is a treasure chest of unknown pleasures. There's hiking (an easy-to-navigate five-mile trail around the reservoir goes through numerous different environments), horseback riding, bicycling and fishing. There's also the mammoth reservoir, on which you can use boats with electric motors, sailboats, kayaks, and canoes. You can get food (in season) at a stand inside the guest complex, which resembles an alpine lodge. Few vistas can beat sitting outside on the second floor of the building and gazing out over the massive reservoir. Not many people know of this place, and that's to your advantage.

You can relive some of the past glories of Long Branch by visiting **Seven Presidents Park** (☎ 732-229-0924) on the ocean, which has some of the best public beaches in the area. However, even better news is that Long Branch is in the midst of an exciting renaissance that could make everyone forget about its famous past and focus on its future.

Long before Camp David became the presidential playground, Chief Executives came to **Long Branch** to relax and unwind. Beginning with the 18th President, US Grant, right through to Woodrow Wilson, seven American Presidents left their cares behind in the Long Branch area. In its heyday, Long Branch was a resort on the scale of a mini-Newport – the type of place where you could see Diamond Jim Brady and girlfriend Lillian Russell strolling along the street, while artist Winslow Homer sketched people frolicking on Long Branch's famous bluffs. But the city gradually lost its luster, and suffered through a period of decline in the mid-part of the 20th century.

Almost President

Have you ever heard the name Garret Augustus Hobart? Probably not, but this Long Branch native almost became President of the United States in the 19th century. He was William McKinley's Vice-President during his first term, and would have become president instead of Theodore Roosevelt upon McKinley's 1901 assassination. Hobart was the consummate political insider, well-liked by Republican party bosses, and seemed a shoo-in to run again with McKinley in 1900. But Hobart died of heart failure in 1899, and his place on the ticket was taken by the maverick Roosevelt. Hobart's home is now the site of William Paterson College.

Deep Cut Gardens (352 Red Hill Road, Middletown, ☎ 732-671-6050; 8-8 year-round; www.monmouthcountyparks.com). This is what Martha Stewart's back yard must look like. In-season, Deep

Cut Gardens is a patchwork of precisely trimmed bushes, flowering trees, and cultivated gardens, complete with a lily pond and display greenhouse. Although relatively small, at just 54 acres, Deep Cut Gardens is a delight of color and manicured greenery. It's worth a visit just to figure out how they cut some of those trees and bushes just so. And if your rose bushes look like stinkweeds despite all your hard work, don't despair: Deep Cut Gardens has one of the largest horticultural reference libraries on the East Coast, with answers to your questions about everything from aphids to zebra plants.

What many people don't know is Deep Cut's fascinating history. Deep Cut Gardens was originally owned by mob boss **Vito Genovese**. It was he who started the pools, several gardens, and created the stone walls. When he had to flee on account of a murder rap, others took over the property.

❦ ***Trivia:*** *Where was Bruce Springsteen born and raised? If you say Asbury Park, take a seat in the last row of rock n' roll high school. The Boss may be forever associated with Asbury Park, but he was actually born in Long Branch and raised in Freehold – both in Monmouth County.*

Englishtown Auction (90 Wilson Avenue, Englishtown, ☎ 732-446-9644; Saturday 7-4, Sunday 9-4; www.englishtownauction.com). Hang onto your wallets and go explore this sprawling 40-acre bargain basement land – one of the largest open-air markets in America, where everything old is new again. Englishtown has hundreds of vendors selling everything from brand-new clothes to Grandma's pots and pans, and at prices that don't give your wallet a heart attack. This is a bargain hunter's paradise, where you can find just about anything you'll ever want, and a lot of stuff you won't. (But it's so reasonably priced, you just have to have it anyway!) The market has vendors both indoors and out, and if you can't find that pink flamingo bird bath here, it's only because you're not trying.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Englishtown gets very crowded very early on Saturday and Sunday, which are the usual days of operation. It's not uncommon to hit a tremendous traffic jam near Englishtown by 8 am. Parking, simply put, is horrendous by then. Many people eschew breakfast, get there early, and get out before the sun gets high. Englishtown does have inside buildings as well, but a good deal of the main action takes place outside.*

Allaire State Park (Highway 524, Farmingdale; general park info, ☎ 732-938-2371; Allaire Village, ☎ 732-919-3500; Pine Creek Railroad, ☎ 732-938-5524). Well, here it is – the dreaded educational experience. Every trip's got to have one. After the kids have gorged

themselves at the boardwalk or spun themselves into a tizzy on the rides, go visit Allaire State Park, more commonly known as the Deserted Village of Allaire. Besides the usual park things to do, such as hiking, nature trails, picnicking, sunbathing, and horseback riding, there is an antique train ride to enjoy. In addition, a plethora of special events are held throughout the year, and some of these your kids might actually enjoy.

The chief attraction is the cluster of old-time stores and buildings that demonstrate what life was like back in the 1840s, when Allaire was a viable bog iron town. You see such things as a blacksmith pounding on his anvil, or a baker making bread. Complete with visitor's center and exhibits that explains the bog iron process, Allaire shows kids what people did before TV.

But there's much more to do at Allaire. The park is home to the **Pine Creek Railroad** (☎ 732-938-5524), where passengers can ride either a coal-burning or diesel-powered locomotive pulling a car that reminds everyone of what a joy riding a train used to be. The railroad doesn't go anywhere except on a short trip through part of the park, but it's a nostalgic trip anyway. There's fishing in **Lower Mill Pond** for kids under 14. Older kids (and their parents) can fish in the **Manasquan River**, which runs through the park. For the "Fore" set, Allaire offers the 18-hole **Spring Meadow Golf Course**, the only state-owned course.

Bog Iron

At one time, the Pinelands (of which Allaire occupies the very northeastern fringe) was a leader in the bog iron industry. Bog iron is made by scooping the vegetation residue off of Pinelands ponds and streams and melting it down, with charcoal and wood, into iron. During the American Revolution, iron workers at Batsto (in Burlington County), Allaire, and other places were exempt from military service because they were producing cannon balls and other material vital to the war effort. The fence at Independence Hall and Stephen Decateur's cannon were just some of the products made of bog iron. The industry died when coal iron ore was discovered in Pennsylvania. However, for awhile, bog iron was America's most important industry.

Red Bank (☎ 888-447-8696, www.exit109.com). Red Bank is a funky little community once dubbed "New Jersey's Hippest Town," where you can just wander around and drink in the ultra-chic atmosphere.

It's where you'd go if you had to pick a town to get stranded in for the rest of your life. It has little outdoor eateries and bistros, restaurants, antique stores, and enough regular stores selling unusual merchandise that you never see the same thing twice. In addition, Red Bank has the **Count Basie Theatre**, one of New Jersey's best locations for artists performing everything from jazz to pantomime. Come for the atmosphere and stay for the elegance.

- ***Trivia:*** *Kevin Smith, the director and creative force behind such films as* Clerks*,* Mall Rats*, and* Chasing Amy*, has a store in Red Bank (told you the town was eclectic). Called* ***Jay & Silent Bob's Secret Stash****, the store contains comic books, movie-related items, and pretty much whatever else Smith wants to put in there.*

Walnford Historic Site (Walnford Road, off Highway 539, Upper Freehold Township, ☎ 732-842-4000; park hours, 8-4:30; house hours, 11-4; flour mill, open weekends, April-November; www.monmouthcountyparks.com). A place that combines historic information with park fun, Walnford – which is on the National Register of Historic Sites – is a rare example of a central New Jersey milling and farming community. It is located in Crosswick Creek Park and contains buildings from the 18th century, including a cow barn, ice house and millstone flour mill. In fact, the **flour mill** is one of the best examples of that type of structure in the eastern US.

Somewhat like Allaire (see page 13), but on a smaller scale, Walnford has a cluster of restored buildings that illustrate "life back then." There are no hiking/walking trails, so you're kind of limited to wandering around and observing the buildings. However, the mill, which can be toured, is a fascinating multi-floored structure that relies on an intricate series of mechanical systems to operate. Also here is **Walnford House**, a late 18th-century Georgian mansion. Walnford has some very pretty scenery, including a mill pond usually inhabited by ducks.

Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina (Simon Lake Drive, Atlantic Highlands, ☎ 732-291-1670, www.atlantichighlands.org). This municipally operated facility has it all for fishermen. It has a commuter boat service to New York City, charter, excursion, and party boats, bait and tackle facilities… even a park area and tennis courts (although the fishing isn't too good at those last two places). Don't confuse this place with its neighbor, Highlands (home of Twin Lights Lighthouse).

Atlantic Highlands is very popular for fishing because of its proximity to some of the best fishing spots on the East Coast, such as Sandy Hook, Raritan Bay, Romer Shoal, the Navesink River, and others. It also has one of New Jersey's largest fleets of party and charter boats.

Mount Mitchell Scenic Overlook (Scenic Drive, Atlantic Highlands, ☎ 732-842-4000, www.monmouthcountyparks.com). Although not an all-day destination, Mount Mitchell is still worth a gander if you're in the area. Mount Mitchell has the highest elevation on the Eastern seaboard – 266 feet above sea level. It offers sensational views of Raritan Bay, Sandy Hook, New York City, and other areas. Pay binoculars let you see even farther. The small picnic area here is a popular destination for the lunchtime crowd.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial (1 Memorial Lane, PNC Bank Arts Center, Garden State Parkway Exit 116, Middletown, ☎ 732-335-0033; Education Center open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10-4; www.njvvmf.org). This is one of the most profound memorial sites and educational experiences dedicated to the Vietnam War in the country. You can't help but be moved by it, particularly if the war touched you in a personal way.

The site contains both a memorial and an Education Center. The memorial is beautiful and profound in its simplicity. **The Education Center** is one of the best efforts to "explain" the war in the United States. It contains a theater in which all sides that were involved in Vietnam, from demonstrators to soldiers, tell their stories. Among the exhibits is a timeline that traces critical events during the Vietnam era. This is a good place to come for personal enlightenment, a school project, or simply to find peace.

Longstreet Farm (Roberts and Longstreet Roads, Holmdel Park, Holmdel, ☎ 732-946-3758; farm open Memorial Day-Labor Day, 10-4; farmhouse open weekends and holidays, March-December, 12-3; www.monmouthcountyparks.com). Get up close and personal with a pig, visit the buildings, talk to the authentically clothed workers, and find out what life was like on a farm in the 18th century. You can do all that and more here.

Longstreet is an actual working farm where there's always a different activity going on, depending upon the season. But it's not a farm from the ancient past. In fact, many of the devices here – such as some of the tractors – were used well into the second decade of the 20th century. There's a variety of outbuildings and the main farmhouse, which has nearly a dozen rooms, including a kitchen, living room and parlor.

Ocean Grove (Ocean Grove, ☎ 732-774-1391, 800-388-GROVE, www.oceangrove.com). If you like Victorian architecture, and you can't get all the way down to Cape May, consider visiting Ocean Grove. Located just below Asbury Park on the Atlantic coastline, Ocean Grove is one of the last Methodist Camp Meeting Towns in the country. It used to be governed by religious standards so strict that you couldn't even drive a car in town between midnight Saturday

and midnight Sunday so that the Sabbath could be preserved as a day of quiet reflection. The rules have loosened now, but every summer religious pilgrims still come to Ocean Grove, live in tents, and listen to sermons.

Many of the homes and buildings are built in Victorian style. It doesn't have the pizzazz of Cape May, but it's not as crowded either. The town covers only one square mile, so if your feet have no objections, consider walking. You'll see more, and avoid having to drive down some of the narrow Ocean Grove streets. This is a unique small town that retains elements of Victorian America.

The highlight of Ocean Grove is the fabulous **Great Auditorium**, built in 1894, a National Historic Landmark and a Jersey Shore symbol as beloved as Old Barney. Inside, the auditorium is much larger than it appears from a casual glance. Summer concerts here are always popular events because of the fine acoustics. Supposedly, the huge lighted cross on top of the building can be seen 20 miles out to sea.

❖ ***Tip:*** *This is an excellent place to walk. If you want to see Ocean Grove on foot, go to the Tourist Center on Main Avenue and get the pamphlet entitled "Walking Tours of Ocean Grove."*

Keansburg (275 Beachway, Keansburg, ☎ 732-495-1400, www.keansburgamusementpark.com). Take a trip back in time and visit the Keansburg "boardwalk," which is really an asphalt walkway that cuts through the center of the quaint but significant amusement area. More like an old-fashioned carnival midway than a boardwalk, Keansburg nevertheless boasts a new-fangled water park across the street from its amusement area. It may look as if it belongs in a museum, but it's still fun!

Delicious Orchards (36 Highway 34, Colts Neck, ☎ 732-462-1989; Tuesday, Sunday, 10-6, www.deliciousorchardsnj.com). Now here's a place that truly lives up to its name. While not a tourist attraction *per se,* people love spending an entire day here. Delicious Orchards is a huge market that carries everything from cakes to milk, but the real attraction is the fruits and vegetables. In the autumn you can't get near this place, as customers pack their carts with apples, pumpkins, and other produce for the upcoming holidays. It's a true Monmouth County tradition to go to Delicious Orchards – and a good tasting one too!

Spring Lake (www.springlake.org). If Spring Lake isn't careful, the town is soon going to get a reputation as the "B&B Capital of the North." No, it doesn't have tons of Victorian buildings like Cape May, but it does contain numerous bed & breakfast establishments. If you don't want to travel to Cape May, don't give a hoot about anything

Victorian, but enjoy the B&B experience, come to Spring Lake. The town has some of the nicest beaches you'll find anywherea and a boardwalk too, but it's amusement-free (just in case your kids are asking). The town itself is friendly and gorgeous, with beautiful big homes. You can spend a whole weekend in Spring Lake without using your car. Walk to the beach, walk the boardwalk, and then walk around town. Better yet, walk around the lovely park that surrounds the town's namesake lake, with its beautiful wooden footbridge and resident swans.

Restaurants

2 Senza (Italian, 2 Bridge Avenue, Red Bank, ☎ 732-758-0999). An open kitchen and great Italian/Mediterranean cuisine.

Anjelica's (Italian, 209 First Avenue, Sea Bright, ☎ 732-842-2800).

Aangan (Indian, 3475 Route 9, Manalapan, ☎ 732-617-9200).

Bahr's (seafood, 2 Bay Avenue, Highlands, ☎ 732-872-1245).

Bayou Café (Cajun/Creole, 1070 Ocean Avenue, Manasquan, ☎ 732-223-6678). The mixture of Cajun and Creole styles really hits home here.

The Bistro at Red Bank (Eclectic, 14 Broad Street, Red Bank, ☎ 732-530-5553).

The Blue Marlin (Eclectic Caribbean, 714 Main Street, Bradley Beach, ☎ 732-988-7997). Caribbean cuisine served with imagination.

The Breakers on the Ocean (Italian/seafood, 1507 Ocean Avenue, Spring Lake, ☎ 732-449-7700).

The Clam Hut (seafood, Atlantic Street, Highlands, ☎ 732-291-1284).

Casa Comida (Mexican, 336 Branchport Avenue, Long Branch, ☎ 732-229-7774).

Caspita (Italian/American, 1070 Route 34, Matawan, ☎ 732-583-6000).

Doris and Ed's (seafood, 348 Shore Drive, Highlands, ☎ 732-872-1565). One of the best-known restaurants on the Jersey shore, this has been a "must visit" for years.

El Rancho (Mexican, 235 Third Avenue, Long Branch, ☎ 732-923-9700).

Emiliana (Italian, 100 Brighton Avenue, Long Branch, ☎ 732-263-0002).

Franco's (Italian/Mediterranean, 401 Main Street, Rumson, ☎ 732-842-8088). A unique menu makes a visit here special.

Fromagerie (French, 26 Ridge Road, Rumson, ☎ 732-842-8088). A superb wine list goes with the great food.

Gaetano's (Italian, 10 Wallace Street, Red Bank, ☎ 732-741-1321).

The Grille & the Grape (eclectic, 64 Monmouth Street, Red Bank, ☎ 732-747-5775). Located so near the Count Basie Theatre, this establishment is a theater-goer's favorite.

Hofbrauhaus (German, 301 Ocean Boulevard, Atlantic Highlands, ☎ 732-291-0224).

Indigo Moon (French, 171 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, ☎ 732-291-2433).

Joe and Maggie's Bistro (American, 591 Broadway, Long Branch, ☎ 732-571-8848).

La Petite France (French, 7 E. Front Street, Red Bank, ☎ 732-936-0640).

Little Kraut (German, 115 Oakland Street, Red Bank, ☎ 732-842-4830).

Manhattan Steak House (steak, 2105 Route 35, Oakhurst, ☎ 732-493-6328).

Marielle's on Main Restaurant and Supper Club (American, 32 West Main Street, Freehold, ☎ 732-308-9808).

Matisse (Continental, 1300 Ocean Avenue, Belmar, ☎ 732-681-7680).

Max's (hot dogs/hamburgers, Ocean Boulevard & Matilda Terrace, Long Branch, ☎ 732-571-0248).

Memphis Pig Out (chicken/ribs, 67 1st Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, ☎ 732-291-5533).

Meritage (American, 1969 Route 34, Wall Township, ☎ 732-974-5566).

Metropolitan Café (Asian-fusion, 8 E. Main Street, Freehold, ☎ 732-780-9400).

The Molly Pitcher Inn (American, 88 Riverside Avenue, Red Bank, ☎ 732-747-2500). Long a favorite for its great food, innovative menu and fantastic view of the Navesink River.

Moonstruck (Italian/Mediterranean, 517 Lake Avenue, Asbury Park, ☎ 732-988-0123).

Navesink Fishery (seafood, 1004 Route 36, Middletown, ☎ 732-291-8017).

Olde Mill Inn (American, Old Mill Road, Spring Lake Heights, ☎ 732-449-1800). A restaurant listing in Monmouth County wouldn't be complete without the Olde Mill.

Parkside Bistro (Italian/Japanese, 235 E. Main Street, Manasquan, ☎ 732-223-5999). Italian and Japanese? This restaurant pulls it off.

Pat's Tavern (American, 715 Main Street, Belmar, ☎ 732-280-2266).

Primas Home and Café (Brazilian, 28 Broad Street, Red Bank, ☎ 732-936-9200). An interesting cuisine in a town starting to be known for its varied cooking styles.

The Quay (Pan-Asian/American, 280 Ocean Avenue, Sea Bright, ☎ 732-741-7755).

Rajin' Cajun (Cajun, 1102 River Road, Belmar, ☎ 732-280-8685).

Raven & Peach (American/French, 740 River Road, Fair Haven, ☎ 732-747-4666). If you expect Rick from *Casablanca* to walk in any moment, you're not alone.

Reef Club (American, 228 New Ocean Avenue, Long Branch, ☎ 732-229-6004).

Restaurant Nicholas (American, 100 Route 35, Middletown, ☎ 732-345-9977). Great food, extensive wine list.

Russian Tea Room (Russian, 445 Route 9 [the Mart Center], Marlboro, ☎ 732-617-0070).

Salt Creek Grill (American, 4 Bingham Avenue, Rumson, ☎ 732-933-9272).

San Remo (Italian, 37 E. Newman Springs Road, Shrewsbury, ☎ 732-345-8200).

Scarborough Fair (Continental, 1414 Meetinghouse Road, Sea Girt, ☎ 732-223-6658).

Shadowbrook (Continental/American, Route 35, Shrewsbury, ☎ 732-747-0200).

Siam Garden (Thai, 2 Bridge Avenue, Red Bank, ☎ 732-244-1233).

Sisters Café (American, 1321 Third Avenue, Spring Lake, ☎ 732-449-1909).

Sogno (Italian, 69 Broad Street, Red Bank, ☎ 732-747-6969).

Windmill (hamburgers/hot dogs, 200 Ocean Avenue, Long Branch, ☎ 732-870-6098).

❖ ***Tip:*** *Want to truly become a Jersey Shore regular? Then do what thousands of people have done before you. Sample hot dogs from both Max's and the Original Windmill in Long Branch, and join the great debate over which is better.*

Accommodations

Asbury Park

Berkley Carteret Hotel (1401 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 888-776-6700).

Flamingo Motel (First Avenue & Kingsley Avenue, ☎ 732-776-7400).

Avon-By-the-Sea

Atlantic View Inn (20 Woodland Avenue, ☎ 732-774-8505).

Avon Manor Inn (109 Sylvania Avenue, ☎ 732-776-7770).

Candlewick Inn (28 Woodland Avenue, ☎ 732-774-2998).

Cashelmara Inn (22 Lakeside Avenue, ☎ 800-821-2976).

Inn to the Sea (101 Sylvania Avenue, ☎ 732-775-3992).

Norwood Inn (618 Second Avenue, ☎ 732-775-3900).

Victoria Hotel (105 Woodland Avenue, ☎ 732-776-7770).

Belmar

All Seasons Guest House (301 Tenth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-8384).

Belmar Beach Bed and Breakfast (200 Tenth Avenue, ☎ 732-280-8777).

Belmar Beach Hotel (402 Fifteenth Avenue, ☎ 732-688-9781).

Belmar Inn (112 Twelfth Avenue, ☎ 732-280-8777).

Belmar Motor Lodge (Highway 35 & Tenth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-6600).

Belport Inn (300 Tenth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-7894).

Carol's Guest House (1201 Eleventh Avenue, ☎ 732-681-4422).

Down the Shore (201 Seventh Avenue, ☎ 732-681-9023).

Gallagher's Guest House (302 Tenth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-2655).

House by the Sea (406 Fifth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-8386).

The Inn at the Shore (301 Fourth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-3762).

Mayfair Hotel (1,000 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-681-2620).
Meier Guest House (203 Eleventh Avenue, ☎ 732-681-7003).
Morning Dove Inn (204 Fifth Avenue, ☎ 732-556-0777).
Sandcastle Cottages (211 Ninth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-0732).
Shannon Inn (200 Ninth Avenue, ☎ 732-681-1388).
The White House Hotel (102 Second Avenue, ☎ 732-681-1991).

Bradley Beach

Bradley Inn (900 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-774-7000).
Sandcastle Inn (204 Third Avenue, ☎ 732-774-2875).
Surf of Bradley Motel (211 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-988-7927).

Colts Neck

Colts Neck Inn Hotel (Route 537 & Highway 34, ☎ 800-332-5578).
Village Inn (92 Highway 34 South, ☎ 732-294-8666).

Cream Ridge

Earth Friendly (17 Olde Noah Hunt Road, ☎ 609-259-9744).

Eatontown

Crystal Motor Lodge (170 Highway 35, ☎ 800-562-5290).
Sheraton Eatontown Hotel & Conference Center (Highway 35 & Industrial Way East, ☎ 800-325-3535).

Freehold

Days Inn (Highway 9, ☎ 732-462-3450).
Freehold Gardens Hotel & Conference Center (Route 537 & Gibson Place, ☎ 732-780-3870).
Hepburn House (15 Monument Street, ☎ 732-462-7696).

Hazlet

Hazlet Hotel (2870 Highway 35, ☎ 732-264-2400).
Wellesley Inn (3215 Highway 35, ☎ 732-888-2800).

Highlands

Seascape Manor (3 Grand Tour, ☎ 732-291-8467).
Water Witch House (254 Navesink Avenue, ☎ 732-708-1900).

Leonardo

Leonardo Motel (840 Highway 36, ☎ 732-291-9527).

Long Branch

Fountains Motel (160 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-222-7200).
Cedars and Beeches Bed & Breakfast (247 Cedar Avenue, ☎ 800-323-5655).
Ocean Court by the Sea Motel (170 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 888-900-1505).
Ocean Place Conference Resort (1 Ocean Boulevard, ☎ 800-411-7321).

Manasquan

Nathaniel Morris Inn (117 Marcellus Avenue, ☎ 732-223-7826).
O'Neill's Guest House (390 East Main Street, ☎ 732-528-5666).
Shore Hills Motel (2337 Higway 34, ☎ 732-528-8070).
Twin Oaks Motel (2300 Highway 35, ☎ 732-223-1247).

Middletown

Howard Johnson Inn (750 Highway 35, ☎ 732-671-3400).

Neptune

Circle Motel (Courtland, ☎ 732-776-7172).
Crystal Inn (706 Highway 35 & Asbury Circle, ☎ 732-776-9000).
Days Inn (3310 Highway 33, ☎ 732-643-8888).
Neptune Motor Lodge (111 New York Road, ☎ 732-988-8750).
Royal Inn (465A Highway 66, ☎ 732-918-9200).

Ocean Grove

Albatross Hotel (34 Ocean Pathway, ☎ 732-775-2085).
The Amherst (14 Pitman Avenue, ☎ 732-988-5297).
Bath Avenue House (37 Bath Avenue, ☎ 732-775-5833).
Bellevue Stratford Inn (7 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-775-2424).
Carol Inn (11 Pitman Avenue, ☎ 732-502-0303).
Carriage House Bed & Breakfast (18 Heck Avenue, ☎ 732-988-3232).
Castle Arms Hotel (16 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-776-7346).
Central Avenue House (24 Central Avenue, ☎ 732-775-3579).
Chelsea Morning Inn (27 Webb Avenue, ☎ 732-775-8847).
Cordova Inn (26 Webb Avenue, ☎ 732-774-3084).
Elfgiva Inn (14 Surf Avenue, ☎ 732-502-0081).
Henry Richard Inn (16 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-776-7346).
House by the Sea (14 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-775-2847).
Laingdon Hotel (8 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-774-7974).
Lillagaard Bed & Breakfast (5 Abbott Avenue, ☎ 732-988-1216).
The Love Letter Inn (19 Broadway, ☎ 732-897-0700).
Main Avenue House (19 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-897-9200).

Manchester Inn (25 Ocean Pathway, ☎ 732-775-0616).
The Melrose (34 Seaview Avenue, ☎ 732-774-5404).
Ocean Park Inn (38 Surf Avenue, ☎ 732-988-5283).
Ocean Plaza Bed & Breakfast (18 Ocean Pathway, ☎ 732-774-6552).
Ocean View Inn (22 Ocean Pathway, ☎ 732-988-9929).
Ocean Vista Inn (13 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-776-2500).
The Parkview Inn (23 Seaview Avenue, ☎ 732-775-1645).
Quaker Inn (39 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-775-7525).
Sampler Inn Hotel (28 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-775-1905).
Sandpiper Guest House (19 Ocean Pathway, ☎ 732-774-6261).
Shawmont Hotel (17 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-776-6985).
Silver Sands (6 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-776-6985).

Red Bank

Courtyard by Marriott (245 Half Mile Road, ☎ 800-321-2211).
Molly Pitcher (88 Riverside Avenue, ☎ 800-221-1372).
Oyster Point Hotel (146 Bodman Pt., ☎ 732-530-8200).

Sea Bright

Fairbanks Motel (344 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-842-8450).

Sea Girt

The Beacon House (100 & 104 Beacon Boulevard, ☎ 732-449-5835).
Sea Girt Lodge (2168 Route 35, ☎ 732-974-2323).

Spring Lake

Ashling Cottage (106 Sussex Avenue, ☎ 732-449-3553).
Atlantic House Hotel (305 Second Avenue, ☎ 732-449-8500).
Breakers Hotel (1507 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-449-7700).
Chateau Inn (500 Warren Avenue, ☎ 877-974-5253).
Evergreen Inn (☎ 732-449-9019).
Grand Victorian Hotel (1505 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-449-5327).
Hewitt Wellington Hotel (200 Monmouth Avenue, ☎ 732-974-1212).
Hollycroft Inn (506 North Boulevard, ☎ 732-681-2254).
Johnson House Inn (25 Tuttle Avenue, ☎ 732-449-1860).
La Maison (404 Jersey Avenue, ☎ 800-276-2088).
Moulton House (120 Ludlow Avenue, ☎ 732-449-5177).
Normandy Inn (21 Tuttle Avenue, ☎ 800-449-1888).
Ocean House (102 Sussex Avenue, ☎ 888-449-9094).
The Sandpiper Inn (7 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 732-449-6060).
Sea Crest By the Sea (19 Tuttle Avenue, ☎ 732-449-9031).

Spring Lake Inn (104 Salem Avenue, ☎ 732-449-2010).
Tara Inns I & II (307 Jersey Avenue, ☎ 732-449-7990).
Victoria House (214 Monmouth Avenue, ☎ 732-974-1882).
Villa Park House (417 Ocean Road, ☎ 732-449-3642).
Walden on the Pond (412 Ocean Road, ☎ 732-282-9700).
White Lilac Inn (414 Central Avenue, ☎ 732-449-0211).

Spring Lake Heights

Doolan's Motel (700 Highway 71, ☎ 732-449-3666).
Evergreen Inn (206 Highway 71, ☎ 732-449-9019).

Tinton Falls

Courtyard by Marriott (600 Hope Road, ☎ 800-321-2211).
Holiday Inn (700 Hope Road, ☎ 732-544-9300).
Martin Motel (4236 Highway 33, ☎ 732-918-9200).
Red Roof Inn (11 Centre Plaza-Hope Road, ☎ 732-389-4646).
Residence Inn (90 Park Road, ☎ 732-389-8100).
Sunrise Suites (3 Centre, ☎ 800-833-4353).

Wall Township

Comfort Inn (1909 Highway 35, ☎ 800-228-5150).
Days Inn (2035 7 Highway 35, ☎ 732-449-3676).
Econo Lodge (5309 Highways 33-34, ☎ 732-938-3110).
Hilltop Motel (1837 Highway 35, ☎ 732-449-4900).
38 Motel (2635 Highway 138, ☎ 732-681-0438).
Travelodge (1916 Highway 35, ☎ 732-974-8400).

West Long Branch

McIntosh Inn (294 Highway 36, ☎ 732-542-7900).

Shopping

Antiques

Carriage House Antique Center (140 Main Street, Manasquan, ☎ 732-528-6772).
Freehold Antique Gallery (21 W. Main Street, Freehold, ☎ 732-462-7900).
The Gilded Rose (41 Highway 34, Colt's Neck, ☎ 732-308-9989).
Keyport Antique Emporium (52 W. Front Street, Keyport, ☎ 732-888-2952).
Red Bank Antique Center (Red Bank, ☎ 732-842-3393).

Factory Outlets

Circle Factory Outlet Center (1407 West Atlantic Avenue at Route 35 Circle, Manasquan, ☎ 732-223-2300).
The Marketplace I & II (359 Highway 34, Matawan, ☎ 732-558-8700).

Flea Markets

Collingswood Auction & Flea Market (Highways 33 & 34, Wall Township, ☎ 732-938-7941).
Englishtown Auction (90 Wilson Avenue, Englishtown, ☎ 732-446-9644).

Malls

Freehold Raceway Mall (3710 Highway 9, Freehold, ☎ 732-577-1144).
The Grove at Shrewsbury (Highway 35, Shrewsbury, ☎ 732-530-1200).
Monmouth Mall (Highways 35 & 36, Eatontown, ☎ 732-542-0333).

Shopping Districts

Allentown (Allentown, ☎ 877-208-1141).
Ocean Grove (Ocean Grove, ☎ 800-388-4768).
Red Bank (Red Bank, ☎ 732-842-4244).
Spring Lake (Spring Lake, ☎ 732-449-0577).

Ocean County

Ocean County is one of the fastest-growing counties in New Jersey, and another of the shore-oriented counties. As such, it boasts an inordinate number of things to do compared to some other counties in the state, but you would expect that from a "tourist county."

And tourist county Ocean certainly is. It has some of the finest beaches in New Jersey, and some of the most ride-filled, attraction-

Ocean County Towns	
Barnegat Township	Long Beach Township
Barnegat Light	Manchester Township
Bay Head	Mantoloking
Beach Haven	Ocean Township
Beachwood	Ocean Gate
Berkeley Township	Pine Beach
Brick Township	Plumstead Township
Dover Township	Point Pleasant
Eagleswood Township	Point Pleasant Beach
Harvey Cedars	Seaside Heights
Jackson Township	Seaside Park
Lacey Township	Ship Bottom
Lakehurst	South Toms River
Lakewood Township	Stafford Township
Lavallette	Surf City
Little Egg Harbor	Tuckerton

laden boardwalks along the shore. It also has a community like Long Beach Island that retains some of its old-time charm. The "island" gets so crowded in the summer with vacationers that on some nights, the only main road (Long Beach Boulevard) is choked with traffic. Yet this same road is so deserted in the winter that its traffic signals are put on blinker, and on bad weather days you can drive for some time before seeing a soul.

But, like Monmouth County, Ocean has a lot more to offer than just the beach. The county's motto is "New Jersey's Best Host," and it sure tries hard to make that come true.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Make sure that everybody wants to spend a full day at the beach before shelling out $25-$30 or more for beach badges. And the same goes for purchasing seasonal tags early, if possible (most beaches in Ocean County are privately owned and require beach tags).*

Best Bets

Point Pleasant Beach Boardwalk (Point Pleasant Beach, www.pointpleasantbeach.org). If you're traveling from north to south along the coast, Point Pleasant Beach is where Ocean County begins. Point Pleasant Beach is tiny but mighty; the town is the premiere family vacation spot along the central Jersey Shore. Every summer, its population zooms as people young and old flood into town. With a boardwalk full of arcades, food stands and rides, over a mile of wide, clean beaches, one of the top party boat basins in the state, and a downtown loaded with antique shops, the town manages to put out the welcome mat for just about everyone. The boardwalk is generally geared more toward the family; you won't find any death-defying rides on it.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Point Pleasant Beach has established a Thursday night tradition of fireworks shows in the summer. The fireworks take place on the beach, so try and get a good spot on the boardwalk early to watch the festivities. Otherwise, the next-best view is from a boat offshore. Several fishing party boats transform themselves into fireworks-viewing boats on Thursday.*

Be sure to check out **Jenkinson's Aquarium** on the boardwalk. It's the only aquarium in this area of the Shore. Its two floors are filled with sharks, alligators, seals, penguins, and other aquatic animals.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Give the angler in your family a break and take an excursion on one of the many party boats gently bobbing in the water along Broadway. Point Beach has one of the best party boat fleets along the Shore. If you just travel down Broadway (a main thoroughfare to the bridge), you can't miss the masts.*

The downtown area of Point Pleasant Beach has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. It used to be a typical small town downtown, with a 5-and-10, private department store, and the like. But it is rapidly becoming known as one of the best places to find antiques. Numerous stores have transformed themselves into antique shops and the area is now an antique-hunter's dream.

❦ ***Trivia:*** *Local lore holds that Robert Louis Stevenson was moved to write his classic novel* Treasure Island *after vacationing in the Point Pleasant Beach area. Area folks have called Osborne Island in the Manasquan River "Treasure Island" for years in honor of Stevenson.*

Seaside Heights Boardwalk (Seaside Heights, www.seasideheightsnj.org). The Seaside Heights boardwalk is where your kids would make you live if kids ruled the world.

❖ ***Money-Saver:*** *In recent years, beach access at Seaside Heights has been free on Wednesday and Thursday, thanks to the sponsorship of various companies. If you're looking to escape the high cost of New Jersey's beach fees, this could be an answer.*

In a one-mile distance, Seaside Heights packs a mind-boggling, wallet-busting array of rides, games, arcades, and food stands on its famous boardwalk, which at night during the summer is so bright that it can be seen from miles away. Two ride-filled amusement piers (**Fun Town Pier** and the **Casino Pier**) anchor the boardwalk on either end, which has no equal on the Jersey Shore, with the exception of Wildwood well to the south.

❖ ***Trivia:*** *The carousel in the Casino Pier on the Seaside Heights boardwalk is one of just two American-crafted, hand-carved antique models in New Jersey.*

Just behind the Casino Pier off the boardwalk is **Water Works**, a state-of-the-art water park that contains 27 different slides, flumes and pools. Seaside also offers special activities throughout the season (April through October), such as bluefish tournaments, crab races, parades, and a special Mardi Gras weekend in September.

The First Boardwalks

Did you know that boardwalks used to be portable? In the early days, boardwalks were built in individual sections that were lifted up and stored away at the end of the season. This was done to protect the boardwalk from the ravages of ferocious winter storms. Once businesses realized the economic potential of boardwalks and put down roots, the removable wooden walkways were doomed.

Island Beach State Park (Route 37 east to Route 35, then south to park entrance, Seaside Park, ☎ 732-793-0506, www.state.nj.us./dep/parksandforests). Island Beach State Park is one of the jewels of the Jersey Shore – approximately 10 miles of land left in its pristine natural barrier island state, except for a road. This is what the entire New Jersey shore looked like 150 years ago, before crowds of people and development arrived. Although portions of Island Beach remain natural and are off-limits to visitors, there's still plenty of room for enjoyment.

While Island Beach is a nature-lover's paradise, it would be a mistake to assume that the chief attractions are passive. The island offers such activities as surf fishing, swimming, hiking, and birdwatching. It's probably the best site for surf fishing along the Northern Jersey Shore. You can picnic on the nice, wide beach and even build a fire there, as long as you keep it at least 50 feet east of the dunes. From October through April horses are allowed on the beach (reservations required first, however).

❖ ***Tip:*** *Island Beach gets extremely crowded in the summer, especially on weekends. When the available parking is filled – which can happen as early as 9 or 10 am – the park closes to all vehicular traffic. It re-opens when some people leave, but that can be well into the afternoon. So arrive early on summer weekends. If you aren't going to Island Beach strictly for the swimming, you might want to visit in autumn or spring, when the park is far less busy.*

But the big attraction at Island Beach is the sheer natural beauty. There are small trees, sand dunes, bushes, and a large variety of other vegetation. The park contains approximately 300 species of plants, including the largest amount of beach heather anywhere.

One extremely enjoyable thing to do is walk along the beach, or on one of the trails, to the "end" of Island Beach and a view of **Barnegat Lighthouse**, which stands straight and tall directly across Barnegat Inlet.

Parts of Island Beach are zealously protected, and anyone who wanders out of the public use area is asking for trouble. Small animals

are very much a part of the Island Beach culture, but don't feed them, no matter how cute they seem. There are foxes on the island that have turned begging for food into an art form. If you feed them, they will have a much tougher time looking for food in the wild when there are no people around.

❦ ***Fun Fact:*** *Did you know that the summer residence of New Jersey's governor is on Island Beach? The house is a remnant of a failed scheme in the late 1920s to develop Island Beach as a trendy resort. The stock market crash of 1929 ended that idea.*

Six Flags Great Adventure (Route 537, Jackson Township, ☎ 732-928-1821; various hours from around mid-March through Halloween; www.sixflags.com/parks/greatadventure/home.asp). Want to see more than 1,200 wild animals? Want to get splashed and doused at a 45-acre waterpark? Want to be spun, dipped, looped and thrilled by more than 100 rides, shows and attractions? Want to cool down at one of the largest waterparks on the East Coast? Then get thee to Six Flags Great Adventure, the largest regional theme park in the United States.

After the amusement park season is over, Six Flags holds two special events that keep the park hopping through the end of the year. The first is a spooky Halloween event complete with ghouls and special shows that runs through the end of October. The second is a Christmas light extravaganza that goes from November through early January.

With a drive-through animal safari, a family ride area, thrill rides, and a water park, Six Flags seems to have all the bases marked "fun" covered.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Normally, amusement rides and discount shopping don't go together. But a few miles down the road from Six Flags is a large outlet shopping center. So, after your kids have had their fun on one of the roller coasters, get your revenge by spending their allowance at this discount shopping mecca.*

Pushkin Fan?

Calling all Pushkin fans! Right off Route 571 in the Cassville section of Jackson Township, just across from the St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church (you can't miss its onion-shaped golden domes) is a statue of the famous Russian writer Alexander Pushkin. Erected by the community (which has a large Russian population) in 1949 on the 100th anniversary of Pushkin's birth, the statue portrays him from the waist up, surrounded by books.

Tuckerton Seaport (120 Main Street, Tuckerton, ☎ 609-296-8868, 10-5, www.tuckertonseaport.org). Quick, what was America's third port of entry after Boston and Philadelphia? New York? Wrong. Baltimore? Nope. Charlotte? Not even close. The answer is Tuckerton in Ocean County, and now the town is recreating that era with the fabulous Tuckerton Seaport. The Seaport is an authentic recreation of what life was like in the Barnegat Bay area 200 years ago. As of this writing, more than a dozen buildings have been constructed, and visitors can see wooden decoys being carved, exhibitions of clamming and oystering, and other aspects of life as it was during the era of the fabled "baymen." You can walk along the boardwalk that winds through the Seaport as you visit these various sites, including a replica of the legendary **Tucker's Island Lighthouse** that succumbed to erosion and fell into the sea.

The Seaport also contains the **Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum** – a must for those interested in the past of the region. This museum is the crucible into which all the history of this storied area has been poured: the famous decoys and decoy carvers, the life-saving service, the boat-building, the gunning clubs, and, most importantly, the people who made these things so memorable. All of this and much more can be found at the museum, which celebrates the natural world as much as it chronicles man's futile attempts to subdue it. One thing that the museum has in abundance are decoys. Here you can see the amazing life-like detail that the baymen put into these wooden objects. Remember that, although now these decoys are valued for their artistic quality, they initially were made for the simplest of reasons: to attract ducks for hunting.

Tuckerton Seaport is a work in progress that is only going to get better as time passes and more of the founders' visions of recreating traditional Barnegat Bay life are realized. The Seaport also hosts a variety of special events during the busy season, such as a seafood festival.

Popcorn Park Zoo (Humane Way & Lacey Road, Forked River, ☎ 609-693-1900, 11-5, www.popcornpark.org). When you get sick, you go to the doctor. When animals get sick, they go to Popcorn Park Zoo. This is a unique refuge for sick or abused animals unable to return to their natural environment. Here, many ill animals are nursed back to health, but those who have no place to go can call Popcorn Park home. The zoo has more than 200 animals, ranging from the ordinary (geese, deer) to the unusual (monkeys, tigers). Some of the animals – mainly the geese – are allowed to roam the preserve freely, and they think nothing of accompanying you on your trip through the zoo, begging for the popcorn you're carrying.

Wooden Boats

Bay Head in Ocean County on the Barnegat Peninsula is now a tourist town full of B&Bs and funky shops, but it was once the center of New Jersey's wooden boat-building industry. Decades ago, Bay Head boasted some of the finest wood craftsmen ever. Names of residents like Morton Johnson and Hubert Johnson are legendary in the annals of wooden boat-building. Most of the storied A-Cat racing sailboats were built in Bay Head.

Long Beach Island (Long Beach Island, http://longbeachisland.com). Eighteen miles long and barely a half-mile wide in many spots, this lick of sand "six miles out to sea" has been welcoming vacationers for over 200 years.

❖ ***Tip:*** *One of the best times to visit LBI (as it's known) is in the spring. You have to take pot luck about what's open and what's closed, but if you just want to get into that island mood, and hate the summer crowds, a spring visit to LBI can do wonders for your spirit.*

Long Beach Island is just as much a state of mind as it is a place. The towns on the island (including **Barnegat Light**, **Harvey Cedars**, **Surf City**, **Ship Bottom**, **Long Beach Township**, and **Beach Haven**), while similar in many respects, are unique in others. Harvey Cedars, for example, is a tiny artist's community, full of big homes and small streets, while Beach Haven caters more to the summer visitor, with its numerous rental properties and bustling commercial district. In Loveladies, the Long Beach Foundation for the Arts and Sciences makes it the cultural magnet of the island. In-season, the foundation offers an extraordinary menu of cultural activities. Contact them at 120 Long Beach Blvd., Loveladies, NJ 08008, ☎ 609-494-1241, fax 609-494-0662, www.lbifoundation.org.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Calling all allergy sufferers! Due to its offshore location, LBI is virtually pollen-free.*

To go to Long Beach Island in the summer is to leave typical resort life behind. There are no boardwalks on the island, nor are there any large, brightly lit, wallet-sucking amusement areas either. (The only amusement complex is Fantasy Island in Beach Haven, which is fun without being overwhelming.) Instead, the island features the beach, the ocean, and just plain, ordinary relaxation – any one of which makes a journey to Long Beach Island well worth the trip.

❖ ***Tip:*** *The Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce Information Center, located just after you get off the Manahawkin Bridge upon entering the island, is an essential stop. It has lodging information, special events schedules, and much more.*

Even in the off-season, when the traffic lights are on blinkers, most of the stores and restaurants have closed, and there's a nip in the air, Long Beach Island has that special Shore magic.

Ship Bottom

There are many stories about how some places got their peculiar names (Loveladies, Harvey Cedars, for example). The most fascinating tale of all concerns Ship Bottom. According to the story, in the early 1800s a small boat washed up on the shore bottom-up. Boats washing up on Long Beach Island were a common occurrence back then because of all the shipwrecks, and so the group of islanders that went to investigate wasn't expecting anything unusual. When they approached the boat, however, they heard knocking coming from within the hull. Quickly they broke through, and found inside a beautiful, dark-haired Spanish woman. Through luck and Providence she had been spared the watery grave that had claimed her shipmates. From then on, the area was called "Ship Bottom."

The **Long Beach Historical Museum** (☎ 609-492-0070), located in the former Holy Innocents Church, is a worthwhile stop if you're interested in area history.

Barnegat Lighthouse State Park (Broadway & the Bay, Long Beach Island, ☎ 609-494-2016; dawn-dusk for the park; lighthouse open daily in summer and weekends in spring and fall; www.state.nj.us/dep/paksandforests). At the very tip of Long Beach Island, at the northern end of the town of Barnegat Light, is Old Barney, the Jersey Shore's most beloved lighthouse.

❦ ***Fun Fact:*** *At 31.8 acres, Barnegat Lighthouse is New Jersey's smallest state park.*

This familiar red and white landmark was rebuilt by General George Meade in 1857-58 after an earlier lighthouse was destroyed by erosion. (Six years later, Meade became famous when he won the critical battle of Gettysburg for the Union during the Civil War.)

> ***Creepy Fact:*** *Is Barnegat Lighthouse beach haunted? The beach was the site of a night massacre of Colonial forces by Tories in 1782. Reports persist of strange sights and sounds on the beach some evenings.*

Old Barney is the main attraction at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park, 31 acres nestled right where the bay meets the ocean. Thanks to umpteen erosion-control projects by the state, Old Barney has not toppled into the ocean like its predecessor, and if you're in the mood to climb its 217 steps, the view from the top is stunning. In the park there are also picnic benches and a long walkway that stretches out along the bay, providing a fish-eye view of the foaming, restless water as it surges through the inlet. You can fish at certain locations in the park.

For a unique experience, take the **nature walk** that's adjacent to the pavilion at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park. Short and easy to navigate, the walk takes you through several different environments and exposes you to what the beachfront used to be like hundreds of years ago. The area contains black cherry, eastern red cedar, and American holly. In addition, it has migrating shorebirds in the spring and fall. But if it's saltwater fishing that floats your boat, use the bulkhead along the picnic area. You can hook striped bass, black bass, weakfish, blues, and several other types from there.

Dover Township (http://township.dover.nj.us/). What's there to do in Dover Township?

Let's start with **Toms River**. This town, the Ocean County seat, contains the **Toms River Seaport Society Museum** (☎ 732-349-9209, maritime artifacts, historic boats, etc.), the **Ocean County Historical Society Museum** (☎ 732-341-1880, Victorian exhibits and displays on local history), and Toms River itself, which is great for canoeing, cruising in a small boat, or just walking along. You shouldn't miss **Toms River Blockhouse**, which stands in Huddy Park. This is a replica of the original structure burned by English soldiers in 1782 during the capture of Toms River in the Revolutionary War.

Outside of Toms River, Dover Township also has the **Robert J. Novins Planetarium** (☎ 732-255-0342) at Ocean County College, which offers programs for the general public, and **Cattus Island Park** (☎ 732-270-6960), 500 acres full of hiking trails, the **Cooper Environmental Center**, with live animal exhibits, over six miles of marked trails for hiking, and other natural activities and attractions.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Ocean Countyand the Dover Township area hosts one of the best First Nights in the state. This non-alcoholic celebration of the New Year, held on New Year's Eve, features dozens of entertainment activities at various venues. For those seeking a way to celebrate the New Year with the entire family,* ***First Night*** *can't be beat!*

Barnegat (www.ci.barnegat.nj.us/). No, this isn't Barnegat Light, home of Old Barney on Long Beach Island, but rather just plain old Barnegat on the mainland. The Village of Barnegat is trying to retain its historical character and quaint, old-time charm in the midst of intense development pressures. To really soak up the atmosphere, visit the **Barnegat Heritage Village** (☎ 609-698-5284), which consists of seven historical buildings that were moved there to escape the wrecking ball. Included are a typical bay area house from several hundred years ago, a butcher shop, a barber shop, and a corn crib (storage facility). The town is a great place to walk around and soak-up atmosphere.

Barnegat Bay. You just can't go to Ocean County without seeing Barnegat Bay, one of the most famous bays on the East Coast.

Barnegat is among the richest bays in the United States for marine life. Besides fishing and pleasure boating, going crabbing in these waters is an experience of a lifetime. Settling down to eat a plate of blue claw crabs caught from Barnegat Bay and steamed to bright-red perfection, with a cold beer in one hand and some melted butter alongside, is an unbeatable pleasure. The perimeter of the bay is lined with boat-and-bait shops, where you can rent anything from a rowboat for crabbing or fishing to a Jet Ski for whizzing around the sparkling blue waters.

The story of how people depended on the bay for life itself is covered at Tuckerton Seaport (see page 30).

The Mooncussers

Imagine for a moment that you're the skipper of a 19th-century sailing ship. It's a dark, moonless night, and to cut travel time you're sailing as near to the treacherous New Jersey shoreline as you dare. Suddenly, on the landward side, you see a light, and think it's another sailing ship. Deciding that you're much farther out from shore than you thought, you give orders to move even closer to the land. Almost the moment your ship moves, however, it runs aground in the shallows, tearing a huge hole in its side and sending your cargo spilling out into the sea. With luck you and your crew will survive... but your cargo is lost. You've become yet another victim of the Barnegat mooncussers.

According to local legend, the Barnegat mooncussers (they cursed the moon when it was out, because its light stopped them from plying their insidious trade) were very real, and caused havoc among sailing ships for years along the central New Jersey shoreline. Others, however, have cast doubt on the entire subject, calling the stories merely local fiction. We'll never know for sure... and dead ships tell no tales.

Albert Music Hall (131 Wells Mills Road [Route 532], Waretown, ☎ 609-971-1593, 7:30-11:30 pm, Saturday; www.alberthall.org/). Waretown is the home of the successor to the legendary Albert Hall. No, not the Royal Albert Hall, but the more famous one (in these parts). For the uninitiated, Albert Hall is where the authentic music of the Pinelands was played every Saturday night, along with some bluegrass and country tunes. The admission charge barely covered the light bill, and none of the performers were paid, but you could not have heard better music anywhere, as the performers were doing it because they loved it. The unique combination of folk, country, and bluegrass, all wrapped up in a Barnegat Bay crust, was as much a part of the Jersey Shore as the ocean.

But in 1992 the original Albert Hall was destroyed by fire. After concerts in the parking lot in front of the fire-charred ruins, the music moved to this new building on the grounds of Frederic Priff Elementary School on Wells-Mills Road (just off of Route 9) early in 1997. Here, everything is practically the same as it was in the old Albert Hall, except it's just a little newer. If you like music played for the sake of music, this is the place to come. And be prepared to be wowed by some truly awesome music.

Lakehurst Town and Navy Lakehurst Historical Society (☎ 732-657-8864; museum open Wednesday and Sunday, 12-3; www.lakehurst.org/). Farther along in Ocean County is Lakehurst, which bills itself as the "Airship Capital of the World." Those with a historical bent will recognize this as the place where the Hindenburg met its disastrous end on May 6, 1937. The tragedy, depicted on radio and on film, effectively put an end to airship travel. Hanger One, where the Hindenburg docked and one of the world's largest structures, is a National Historic Landmark. The museum has airship-related exhibits, such as a replica of the gondola used in the movie *Hindenburg,* and charred debris from the original *Hindenburg.* On the second Saturday of each month, free tours are given of the crash site and hangars.

Lakehurst itself is a picturesque small town with numerous sites of additional historical interest. You can take a self-guided historical walking tour of the town to learn more.

> ***Creepy Fun Fact:*** *Is Hangar One haunted? Reports persist of a man in a military uniform being seen in the upper reaches of the hangar. But when people approach the spot where he has been seen, no one is there.*

Pinelands (www.state.nj.us/pinelands/recguide). The Pinelands is a region that has become almost legendary during the past few decades. Taken at face value, the New Jersey Pinelands (sometimes called the Pine Barrens, because the sandy soil prohibits many types of typical farm crops from growing there) are simple: a vast wilderness area consisting primarily of pine trees, sand, and cedar streams, encompassing almost 25% of New Jersey. (While not all of it is in Ocean County, the county does have a lot of Pinelands acreage.)

Yet the Pinelands is much more than it first appears. The region has its own way of life, a lifestyle considered so culturally significant that a research group from the Library of Congress's American Folklife Center spent months studying and documenting it. Today the Pinelands' way of life is one of just a handful of culturally unique lifestyles catalogued in the center's archives. Whereas once people who lived in the Pinelands were considered no better than dim-witted hillbillies, today they're proudly called "Pineys" and looked to with envy because they had the sense to leave the hustle and bustle of city life behind in order to live "in the country."

Going to the Pinelands is not like visiting a typical national park. In 1979 the region was designated as the country's first national reserve, a distinction that has everything to do with preserving the unique natural qualities of the area and almost nothing to do with tourism. You won't find picnic tables, restrooms, food stands, and the like in the Pinelands (except in the state parks scattered throughout); what you will encounter is simply a place that still looks as it did hundreds of years ago. Incredibly, this primitive area is in the most urbanized and most densely populated state in the union.

One way to see the Pinelands is by car. Make sure to stay on the main roads and not turn down any of the countless sandy roads leading off into the woods, or you'll soon be lost. You can get a sense of the isolation and beauty of the region this way.

A better way to see the area is by canoe. Paddling through the Pinelands enables you to experience first-hand the incredible diversity of animal and plant life. During one of these trips, you could see beavers building a dam, deer drinking from a quiet stream, huge cedar and pine trees, and maybe even the rare curly grass fern! If you go canoeing for no other reason, however, go for the peace and solitude, the tranquillity that wraps you in like a soft blanket.

Canoeing

There are four excellent rivers in the Pinelands that run the gamut from easy to only-for-veteran canoeists. The **Wading River** and **Mullica River** are fairly easy for beginning paddlers, while the **Oswego River** is for the more advanced. The **Batsto River** is extremely difficult to maneuver, and is recommended only for those who really know how to handle a canoe.

You can put in at a number of state recreation areas and certain parts of each river are accessible to canoes. Check with a veteran Pinelands canoeist before venturing forth. For details on routes and put-ins, check www.courierpostonline.com/pinelands/images/map.pdf. Following are places where you can rent canoes.

The Forks Inn Marina, ☎ 609-567-8889

Mullica River Marina, ☎ 609-965-2120

Paradise Lakes Campgrounds, ☎ 609-561-7095

Pine Barrens Canoe & Kayak Rental, ☎ 609-726-1515, 800-732-0793, www.pinebarrenscanoe.com

Bel Haven Canoes & Kayaks, ☎ 609-965-2205, 800-445-0953, www.belhavencanoe.com

Wading Pines Campground, ☎ 888-726-1313, www.wadingpines.com

Adam's Canoe Rental, ☎ 609-268-0189

Frightening Fact: *Ever hear of the Jersey Devil – and not the hockey team? The devil is a (mythical?) creature that has supposedly been terrorizing the Pinelands for over 250 years. According to legend, the Devil was the unlucky and unwanted 13th son of Mrs. Leeds, who cursed the news as pregnant yet again with the exasperated phrase "I hope it's a devil!" After being born as a human boy, the baby quickly changed into the Devil, sprouted wings and flew out of the Leeds cabin into the wilderness, where it lives to this day. The Devil, commonly described as having the face of a horse, the head of a dog, the feet of a pig, the wings of a bat and a kangaroo's body, is blamed for every calamity that befalls the Pinelands. Supposedly, if you're traveling alone in the Pinelands at night and you hear strange noises around you, it's the Devil!*

Double Trouble State Park (Pinewald-Keswick Road [Route 618], Lacey and Berkely townships, ☎ 732-341-6662, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Now here is something that you don't see every day, and that is a state park, historic site, and actual current business operation. But then, how many parks do you see called "double trouble?"

> ❦ ***Perhaps It's True:*** *According to legend, this park got its unusual name in one of two ways: Thomas Potter said the immortal words "double trouble" after rains twice washed out the cranberry bog dam that had been built; or, if you don't like that one, then we can blame the region's muskrats, who caused frequent leaks in the dam. When a leak was discovered, the worker would yell "here's trouble." One day, the industrious muskrats caused* ***two*** *leaks, and the workers called out, "here's double trouble." (Hey, it's just a legend.)*

But no matter how it got its name, Double Trouble State Park is a lot of fun. It has trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding, as well as fishing and hunting available at the park. Next, there are the cranberry bogs, which are operated by a local cranberry company. Visiting these in early autumn might just enable you to see the workers flood the cranberry bogs and harvest the berries as they float to the surface. Floating in the water, they look like a million tiny red basketballs. There is also a historic village, which offers a look at how cranberries used to be farmed. There are over a dozen historical structures here, although only a few, such as the sawmill, have been restored. Still, for a unique blending of the past with the present, Double Trouble can't be beat.

The First Winter Resort?

Did you know that the Ocean County town of Lakewood was one of the first in America to gain prominence as a winter resort? From around 1880 to well into the 20th century, Lakewood was the place to go when "winter resort" didn't mean skis and trendy, upscale celebrities, just relaxing by a roaring fire and going for sleigh rides in the bracing air. Lakewood had its own brand of celebrity – folks like John D. Rockefeller (whose estate is now Ocean County Park), Grover Cleveland and Rudyard Kipling.

Restaurants

Angles Café Grille (American, 2373 Highway 9, Toms River, ☎ 732-367-6400).

Bayberry Inn (Continental/American, 13th Street & Long Beach Boulevard, Ship Bottom, ☎ 609-494-8848).

Berkeley Seafood Restaurant of Silverton (seafood, 1747 Hooper Avenue [Anchorage Square Plaza], Silverton, ☎ 732-255-6333).

Blue (global, 1016 N. Long Beach Boulevard, Surf City, ☎ 609-494-7170). Long Beach Island gem specializing in grilled fresh fish and seafood.

Café La Playa (eclectic, 34 Highway 35, Mantoloking, ☎ 732-892-7170).

C'Est La Vie (French, 7807 Long Beach Boulevard, Beach Haven Crest, ☎ 609-494-5372).

Clayton's Log Cabin (German/American, 576 Highway 72, Barnegat, ☎ 609-698-4407).

Clarks Bar and Grill (Continental, 847 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-899-1111).

Crab's Claw (seafood, 601 Grand Central Avenue, Lavallette, ☎ 732-793-4447). A popular favorite among both locals and visitors.

Dennis Foy's (American, 816 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-295-0466).

Engleside Inn (American/Continental, 30 Engleside Avenue, Beach Haven, ☎ 609-492-1251). Another great Long Beach Island favorite where seafood plays a prominent role.

Europa South (Portuguese, 521 Arnold Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-295-1500).

Forte (Mediterranean, 2154 Bridge Avenue, Point Pleasant, ☎ 732-899-5600).

Green Gables (eclectic, 212 Center Street, Beach Haven, ☎ 609-492-3553). Creative favorite on LBI.

Grenville (American, 345 Main Avenue, Bay Head, ☎ 732-892-3100). With the Grenville Hotel already a popular spot, having a great restaurant makes it even better.

Harvey Cedars Shellfish Company (7904 Long Beach Boulevard, Harvey Cedars, ☎ 609-494-7112). Fresh local seafood and a fun atmosphere creates a great dining experience.

Heatwave at Windows (American, 1205 Ocean Avenue [at White Sands Resorts & Spa], Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-714-2030).

Heatwave Café (American, 530 Main Street, Bay Head, ☎ 732-714-8881).

Jack Baker's Wharfside (seafood, 101 Channel Drive, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-892-9100).

Jeffrey's (American, 73 Main Street, Toms River, ☎ 732-914-9544).

Jersey Mike's (submarine sandwiches, 901 Richmond Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-892-6796). Call them hoagies, call them grinders, but when Jersey Mike's makes them, call them great.

The Lobster Shanty (seafood, 83 Channel Drive, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-899-6700).

Mud City Crab House (seafood, 1185 E. Bay Avenue, Manahawkin, ☎ 609-597-7522). Great seafood.

Octopus's Garden (seafood, 5th Street & Long Beach Blvd, Surf City, ☎ 609-494-1200).

Panzone's Pizza (pizza, 11th Street & Bay Area Way, Beach Haven, ☎ 609-492-5103).

Pilot House (Continental/American, 799 Highway 70 [Forge Landing Marina], Brick Township, ☎ 732-920-8900).

Pinzimino (Italian, 122 N. Bay Avenue, Beach Haven, ☎ 609-207-1200).

River Lady Cruise and Dinner Boat (American, 1 Robbins Parkway, Toms River, ☎ 732-349-8664).

Red's Lobster Pot (seafood, 57 Inlet Drive, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-295-6622). Seafood and no meat? Sounds like the Lobster Pot.

The Southern House (ribs, 501 Washington Avenue & Highway 35, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-899-7427).

Spike's Fish Market (seafood, 415 Broadway, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-295-9400).

Tesauro's (Italian, 401 Broadway, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-892-2090).

Tucker's (burgers, Engleside Avenue, Beach Haven, ☎ 609-492-2300). Once voted "best inexpensive restaurant in Southern New Jersey" by a regional magazine.

Accommodations

❖ ***Tip:*** *Like many other resort areas along the Jersey Shore, there are no big, fancy "name brand" hotels in Seaside Heights. So just be aware that your choice of accommodations in Seaside is limited to the privately owned type.*

Barnegat

Arbor Rose Bed & Breakfast (715 West Bay Avenue, ☎ 609-607-0743).

Barnegat Light

Ella's Motel (18th & Boulevard, ☎ 609-494-3200).

Sand Castle Bed & Breakfast (710 Bayview Avenue, ☎ 609-494-6555).

North Shore Inn (806 Central Avenue, ☎ 609-494-5001).

White Whale Revisited (20 West Seventh Street, ☎ 609-494-3020).

Bay Head

Bay Head Gables (200 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-892-9844).

Bay Head Harbor Inn (676Main Avenue, ☎ 732-899-0767).

Bay Head Sands (22 Twilight Road, ☎ 732-899-7016).

Bentley Inn Bed & Breakfast (694 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-892-9589).

Conover's Bay Head Inn (646 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-892-4664).

Historic Grenville Hotel (345 Main Avenue, ☎ 732-892-3100).

Beach Haven

Amber Street Inn (118 Amber Street, ☎ 609-492-1611).
Brighton Manor Motel (8501 Long Beach Boulevard, ☎ 609-492-8775).
Coral Seas Oceanfront Motel (21 Coral Street, ☎ 609-492-1141).
The Engleside Inn (30 Engleside Avenue, ☎ 609-492-1251).
The Friendly Victoria Bed & Breakfast Guest Houses (126 Amber Street, ☎ 609-492-4154).
Green Gables Inn (212 Centre Street, ☎ 609-492-3553).
Haven Beach Motel (1104 Long Beach Boulevard, ☎ 609-492-6223).
Heather House (2nd St & Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-492-2474).
Hurley's at Holgate Motel (4804 South Long Beach, ☎ 609-492-2266).
Hydrangea House (104 Centre Street, ☎ 609-492-2782).
The Island Guest House (207 Third Street, ☎ 877-LBISTAY).
Jolly Roger (5416 South Bay Boulevard, ☎ 609-492-6931).
Julia's of Savannah (209 Centre Street, ☎ 609-492-5004).
Lorry's Island End Motel (23 Washington Avenue, ☎ 609-492-6363).
The Magnolia House (215 Centre Street, ☎ 609-492-2226).
Mariner Motel (33rd Street & Long Beach Boulevard, ☎ 609-492-1235).
Mussel Beach Club (310 S. Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-492-9644).
Park Haven Motel (9601 Long Beach Boulevard, ☎ 609-492-8260).
Pierrot by the Sea (101 Centre Street, ☎ 609-492-4424).
Sea Spray Motel (2600 South Bay Avenue, ☎ 609-492-4944).
Sea Village Apts./Motel (220 Fairview Avenue, ☎ 609-492-9283).
St. Rita Hotel (127 Engleside Avenue, ☎ 609-492-9192).
The Sea Shell Motel (10 S. Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-492-4611).
The Sierra Inn (204 South Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-492-1981).
Steal Away Bed & Breakfast (117 Centre Street, ☎ 609-492-5216).
Windward Manor Inn (Atlantic & Amber Streets, ☎ 609-492-4468).

Brant Beach

Sea Horse Motel (43rd & Long Beach Boulevard, ☎ 609-494-5392).

Brick Township

Pine Rest Lodge Motel (531 Mantoloking Road, ☎ 732-477-4166).
The Lenape Motel (825 Mantoloking Road, ☎ 732-477-0077).

Forked River

Bay Harbour Motor Lodge (419 Route 9, ☎ 609-693-8085).

Island Heights

The Studio of John F. Peto (102 Cedar Avenue, ☎ 732-270-6058).

Lakewood

Best Western Leisure Inn (1600 Highway 70, ☎ 732-367-0900).
Econo Lodge (450 Madison Avenue [Highway 9], ☎ 732-363-8530).

Lavallette

Candlelight Motel (Grand Central Avenue, ☎ 732-793-5050).
The Bayberry Motel (1005 Grand Central Avenue, ☎ 732-830-4442).
The Lamplight Motel (204 Grand Central Avenue, ☎ 732-793-8601).
Tradewinds Motor Lodge (2000 Grand Central Avenue, ☎ 732-793-2100).

Manahawkin

Goose N. Berry Inn (190 N. Main Street, ☎ 609-597-6350).

Manchester

Super 8 Motel (2016 Highway 37, ☎ 732-657-7100).

Ortley Beach

Jersey Shore Courts Motel (1810 Highway 35, ☎ 732-793-6068).
The Starlight Motel (1963 Route 35, ☎ 732-793-4321).

Point Pleasant

Cove Point Motel (1609 Bay Avenue, ☎ 732-892-1208).
Crystal Point Inn (3900 River Road & Highway 70, ☎ 732-899-3444).
Sea Aire Motel (620 Ocean Road, ☎ 732-899-3776).
Steepleview (1107 Front Street, ☎ 732-899-8999).

Point Pleasant Beach

Amethyst's Beach Motel (202 Arnold Avenue, ☎ 732-899-3000).
Atlantic Motel (215 Broadway, ☎ 732-899-7711).
Broadway Court (304 Broadway, ☎ 732-899-0108).
Carousel Inn (1301 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-892-5415).
Colonial Motel (210 Arnold Avenue, ☎ 732-899-2394).
Driftwood Motel (1414 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-892-3519).
Dunes Hotel (1601 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-899-1143).
Gates Motel (5 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-899-5760).
Harbor Lights Motor Lodge (301 Broadway, ☎ 732-295-3440).
Mariner's Cove Motor Inn (50 Broadway, ☎ 732-899-0060).

The Point Beach Motel (Ocean & Trenton avenues, ☎ 732-892-5100).
Point Pleasant Manor Motel (310 Sea Avenue, ☎ 732-899-7300).
The Sand Pebble Motor Lodge (905 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-899-7712).
Surfside Motel (101 Broadway, ☎ 732-899-1109).
White Sands Resort & Spa (1205 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 888-558-8958).
Windswept Motel (1008 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-899-1282).

Seaside Heights

Anchor Motel (145 Sheridan Avenue, ☎ 732-793-9312).
Aquarius Arms (209 Kearney Avenue, ☎ 732-793-0011).
Atlantic Motel (Central Avenue, ☎ 732-793-0200).
Aztec Ocean Resort (901 Boardwalk, ☎ 732-793-3000).
Bay Breeze Motel (230 Sumner Avenue, ☎ 732-830-4555).
Belmont Motel (120 Sheridan Avenue, ☎ 732-793-8519).
Boardwalk Seagull Motel (1119 Ocean Terrace, ☎ 732-793-1735).
Buoy 16 Motel (711 Ocean Terrace, ☎ 732-830-4829).
Coral Sands Motel (1010 Boulevard, ☎ 732-793-8711).
Cranbury Inn (201 Hiering Avenue, ☎ 732-793-5117).
Dry Dock Motel (46 Lincoln Avenue, ☎ 732-793-6999).
Flamingo Motel (124 Kearney Avenue, ☎ 732-793-0648).
Four Winds Motel (17 Kearney Avenue, ☎ 732-830-3000).
Franklin Terrace Motel (50 Franklin Avenue, ☎ 732-793-1177).
Glendale Motel (26 Lincoln Avenue, ☎ 732-793-1433).
Sea Breeze Inn (1502 Boulevard, ☎ 732-830-0032).
Seafarer Motel (1414 Sampson Avenue & Boardwalk, ☎ 732-793-1755).
Sea Gull Motel (1401 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-793-0815).
Skyview Manor (45 Dupont Avenue, ☎ 732-793-6798).
Starburst Motel (1020 Boulevard, ☎ 732-793-2889).

Seaside Park

Charlroy Motel (1601 N. Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-793-0712).
Island Beach Motor Lodge (24th & Central Avenues, ☎ 732-793-5400).
Luna-Mar Motel (Ocean Avenue & L Street, ☎ 732-793-7955).
Sea Gull Motel (1401 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-793-0815).
The Seascape Motel (1313 N. Ocean Avenue, ☎ 732-793-8770).
Topsider Motel (28 Decatur Avenue, ☎ 732-830-6288).
The Windjammer Motor Inn (First & Central avenues, ☎ 732-830-2555).

Ship Bottom

Admiral Hotel (102 East 16th Street, ☎ 609-494-0410).
Drifting Sands Oceanfront Motel (119 E. Ninth Street, ☎ 877-LBI-SUN).
Ebb Tide Motel (115 E. Seventh Street, ☎ 609-494-1785).
The Islander Motel (1202 Central Avenue, ☎ 609-494-6964).

Quarter Deck Inn (351 W. Ninth Street, ☎ 609-494-9055).
Sandcastle Hotel (2708 Long Beach Boulevard, ☎ 609-361-1646).
The Sandpiper Motel (10th Street & Long Beach Boulevard, ☎ 609-494-6909).
Ship Bottom Motor Lodge (19th Street & Central Avenue, ☎ 609-494-7236).

Toms River

Howard Johnson's (Cedar Grove Road, ☎ 732-244-1000).
Holiday Inn (290 Route 37, ☎ 732-244-4000).
Quality Inn (815 Route 37, ☎ 732-341-2400).

Tuckerton

J.D. Thompson Inn (149 East Main Street, ☎ 609-294-1331).

Shopping

Antiques

Fond Memories Antiques & Gifts (632 Bay Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-892-4149).
Manahawkin Mart (Manahawkin, ☎ 609-597-1017).
Point Pleasant Beach Antique Emporium (Point Pleasant Beach, ☎ 732-892-2222).
Red Barn Antiques (New Egypt, ☎ 609-758-9152).

Factory Outlets

Jackson Factory Outlets (537 Monmouth Road, Jackson, ☎ 732-833-0680).

Flea Markets

New Egypt Auction & Farmer's Flea Market (New Egypt, ☎ 609-758-2082).
Route 70 Flea Market (Highway 70, Lakewood, ☎ 732-370-1837).

Malls

Ocean County Mall (Hooper Avenue, Toms River, ☎ 732-244-8200).

Shopping Districts

Bay Village & Schooner's Wharf (Ninth Street between Ocean & Bay Avenues, Beach Haven, ☎ 609-492-2800).

Atlantic County

Atlantic County is the third of the four Shore "tourist" counties. Like Ocean or Cape May counties, much of Atlantic has come of age since the opening of the Garden State Parkway. Yet Atlantic also contains the granddaddy (or grandma, if you prefer) of resort towns. The fabled Atlantic City was one of the earliest resorts established in the United States, dating from the 1850s. Back then it was just a hopeful dream that people would actually travel to the Jersey Shore for fun and relaxation, and such things as boardwalks and amusement rides were unknown.

Atlantic County Towns	
Absecon	**Hamilton**
Atlantic City	**Hammontown**
Brigantine	**Linwood**
Buena	**Longport**
Buena Vista	**Margate City**
Corbin City	**Mullica**
Egg Harbor City	**Northfield**
Egg Harbor Township	**Pleasantville**
Estell Manor	**Port Republic**
Folsom	**Somers Point**
Galloway	**Ventnor City**
Weymouth Township	

Atlantic City grew to become the premier resort in America. It was a wild town in its heyday, with a boardwalk filled with attractions like an exploding volcano, beer gardens with dancing girls, and a caged "wild man."

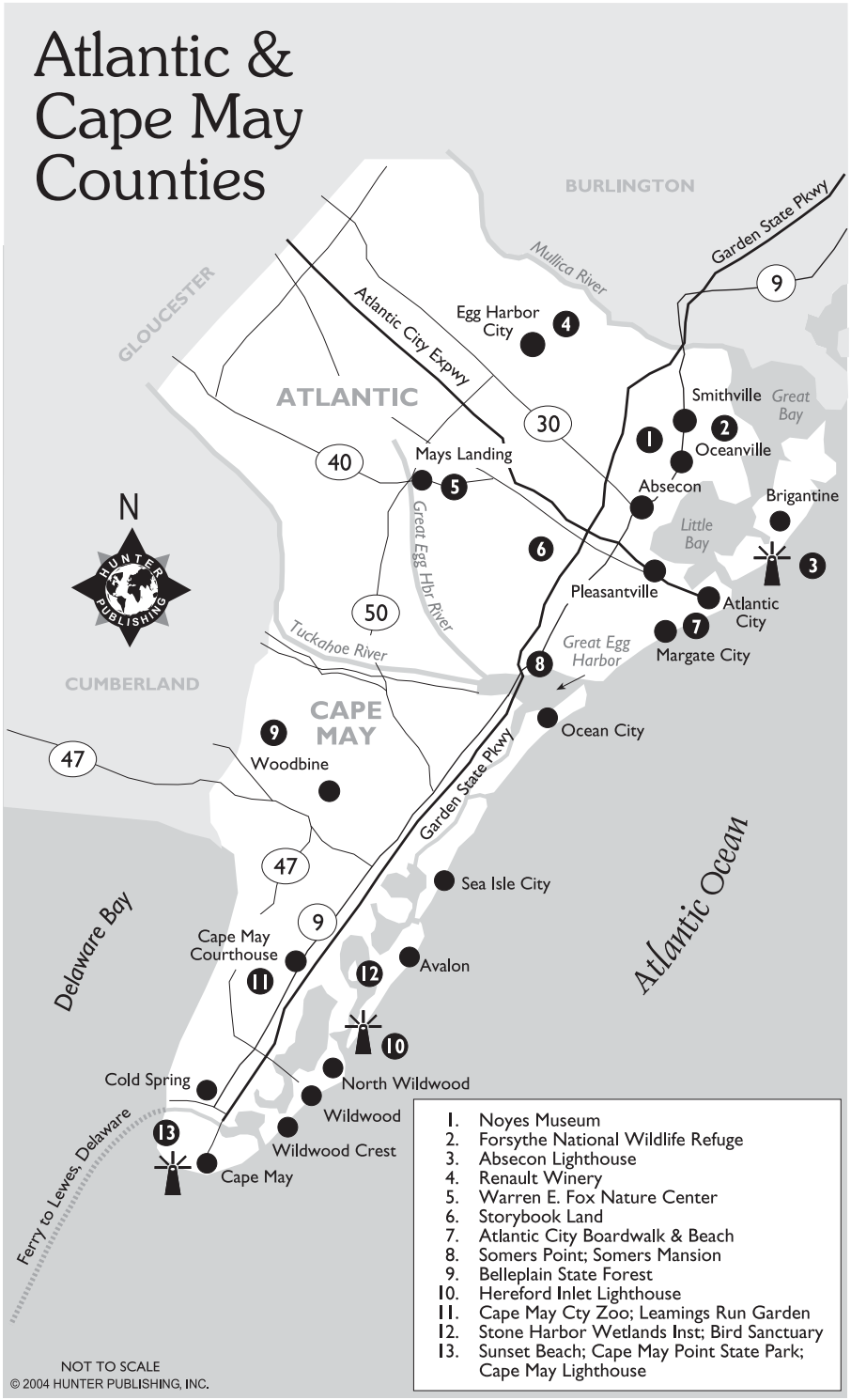
Things are a little more sedate these days, and the only wild man you're likely to see is the unlucky gambler who has lost his last dollar and is frantically going through his pockets for overlooked loose change. Atlantic County as a whole has grown up around its most famous city, and it contains a multitude of interesting and diverse things to do and see there. After all, where can you find a great old-time shopping district, a fabulous boardwalk, a superb art museum, a fascinating winery tour and a six-story wooden elephant?

Why, in Atlantic County, of course.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *All right, sports fans, here's something you probably didn't know. The heating apparatus used to warm cold benches in late season pro football games was invented by a man from Pleasantville in Atlantic County.*

Best Bets

Atlantic City Beach & Boardwalk (Atlantic City, ☎ 888-228-4748, www.atlanticcitynj.com). This is still a rollicking destination. It still has the world-famous Boardwalk, and beautiful wide beaches


Atlantic & Cape May Counties
BURLINGTON
GLOUCESTER
ATLANTIC
CUMBERLAND
CAPE MAY
Mullica River
Garden State Pkwy
Atlantic City Expwy
Great Egg Hbr River
Tuckahoe River
Great Egg Harbor
Little Bay
Great Bay
Egg Harbor City
Smithville
Oceanville
Absecon
Brigantine
Mays Landing
Pleasantville
Atlantic City
Margate City
Ocean City
Woodbine
Sea Isle City
Avalon
Cape May Courthouse
North Wildwood
Wildwood
Wildwood Crest
Cape May
Cold Spring
Ferry to Lewes, Delaware
Delaware Bay
Atlantic Ocean
9
30
40
50
47
47
N
HUNTER PUBLISHING
1. Noyes Museum
2. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
3. Absecon Lighthouse
4. Renault Winery
5. Warren E. Fox Nature Center
6. Storybook Land
7. Atlantic City Boardwalk & Beach
8. Somers Point; Somers Mansion
9. Belleplain State Forest
10. Hereford Inlet Lighthouse
11. Cape May Cty Zoo; Leamings Run Garden
12. Stone Harbor Wetlands Inst; Bird Sanctuary
13. Sunset Beach; Cape May Point State Park; Cape May Lighthouse
NOT TO SCALE
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that lead to the mighty Atlantic Ocean. And when it's 100 degrees in the shade, and even Satan is running around in shorts and sandals to beat the heat, then there's no substitute for Atlantic City's beaches. Best of all, they're free! (An unfortunately too-rare occurrence among New Jersey's beaches.)

❖ ***Tip:*** *Do you miss the mall while you're at the beach? Have an urge to spend some salt water-soaked dollars? Never fear. That big ship jutting out from the Boardwalk is a multi-level shopping mall with an extensive food court!*

True, Atlantic City is different than it used to be. Instead of being filled with amusements like diving horses and steel piers, today's Atlantic City Boardwalk is filled with casino hotels like Caesar's and Trump. And, even though it's trying to become more family-friendly by adding attractions for everyone, it's still largely a casino town that caters to gamblers. You will not find the plethora of amusement rides, wheels of chance, and arcades filled with video games that you would on other entertainment-oriented boardwalks along the shore, such as Point Pleasant Beach or Wildwood.

Instead, the Atlantic City Boardwalk contains mainly shops to complement the casino hotels. There are also any number of food stands and eating establishments. Just walking along it brings a real sense of history.

❦ ***Fun Fact:*** *Did you know that the Atlantic City Boardwalk is the only one that it's proper to capitalize? That's because Atlantic City formally adopted the word Boardwalk as a proper name. So you use the capital "B" when talking about this wooden walkway, and the lower case "b" when talking about everybody else's boardwalk.*

All of the casino hotels feature fabulous restaurants, sensational rooms, opulent décor, varied selection of shops, and great entertainment. They are like miniature cities inside, with everything that the traveler needs under one roof. As of this writing, the list of casino hotels on the Boardwalk was as follows:

- Atlantic City Hilton
- Bally's Park Place
- Caesar's Atlantic City
- The Claridge
- Resorts
- The Sands
- The Showboat

- The Taj Mahal
- Tropicana Casino and Resort
- Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino
- The Wild West Casino

For those who like their action a little farther away from the bright lights and glitter of the Boardwalk, there's also **Harrah's** and **Trump Marina**, located on the Absecon Inlet, across from the Frank S. Farley State Marina.

The First Salt Water Taffy

If you want to be a part of history, go to **Fralinger's** candy shop on the Boardwalk. It was there in 1885 that Joseph Fralinger began to sell his candy concoction known as salt water taffy. The sticky sensation quickly became famous. Fralinger's biggest rival is **James' Candy**. The two have had a "taffy pull" for over a century for the title of Boardwalk Taffy King.

Interestingly enough, neither Fralinger or James came up with the term "salt water taffy." According to legend, that honor goes to David Bradley, who had an Atlantic City candy stand back in 1883 that was flooded by sea water. When someone subsequently asked to buy some taffy, he cracked "You mean salt water taffy?" In such small ways are traditions born.

Absecon Lighthouse (Pacific & Rhode Island avenues, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-449-1360; open July and August, 10-5; other times of the year, 11-4, Monday, Thursday through Sunday; www.abseconlighthouse.org). Built in 1855-56, this 171-foot-tall lighthouse – the tallest in New Jersey and third highest in the United States – once stood at the entrance to the nearby inlet, warning unwary skippers of the treacherous rocks and shoals nearby and saving countless lives. So many ships were lost in this area that it became known as the "graveyard inlet." For many years the light worked well, but eventually erosion, development, and a variety of other factors took its toll. Today, Absecon Lighthouse sits in the middle of a field blocks away from water of any type, far removed from the site of its former life-saving function, its only neighbors apartment buildings. However, having recently undergone a superb multi-million-dollar renovation, the lighthouse is wonderful to tour. The view from the top is simply spectacular. (Warning! It's a long way to

the top – 240 steps altogether – and if climbing stairs isn't your thing, don't attempt it.)

Renault Winery (72 N. Bremen Avenue, Egg Harbor City, ☎ 609-965-2111; open Monday-Friday, 11-4, Saturday, 11-8, Sunday, 12-4; www.renaultwinery.com). This is one of the oldest continuously producing wineries in the United States. Begun in the mid-19th century by a Frenchman named Louis Nicholas Renault, the winery stayed in operation and out of the clutches of Eliot Ness types during Prohibition by producing a "medicinal" tonic. The organized tour will take you on a – well, a tour – of the wine-making operations. Included are an antique glass museum, giant wooden wine casks, and a sampling room. Tour guides relate the winery's fascinating history, and seem to have as good a time on the tour as the patrons.

While a winery might not seem the proper place to take a child, kids can have a good time at Renault. That's because this is a very pleasant place, with water, ducks, and some rustic wooden bridges. There is also a great restaurant on the premises, and a packaged goods store that sells more than just wine.

❦ ***Fun Fact:*** *The Renault Winery is the only winery in the country that sells a unique New Jersey product: Blueberry Champagne.*

Edwin B. Forsythe (Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge (Great Creek Road, Oceanville, ☎ 609-652-1665; wildlife drive sunrise-sunset, seven days a week; www.forsythe.fws.gov). If you don't like places where your car can be stopped by a family of geese strolling across the road, then you won't like this sprawling 36,000-acre wildlife refuge. The speed limit is only about 10 miles per hour anyway, so it's not like you're burning rubber. This fabulous coastal/woodlands/salt-marsh is a haven for animals of all kinds.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Forsythe is usually overrun in mid-spring – around Mother's Day – with Canadian geese and their young. It's a very popular time at the reserve, and a very lovable one as well, as families of geese will frequently pop out of the bushes and start marching single-file across the road, not giving a hoot if a car is coming or not. If you like seeing fuzzy little yellow chicks scampering along, then you can't beat this! Call Forsythe first and find out if a particular bird is making a concentrated appearance during your visit.*

Birds especially flock to this protected area in the shadow of Atlantic City. A drive around the preserve's eight-mile looping highway or an excursion on foot will often reveal dozens of different feathered species. Forsythe is located on the Atlantic Flyway – which is kind of like an I-95 for birds – and over 250 species show up here every year.

Unless you're a veteran birder, start at the Visitor's Center, where you can obtain a pamphlet called *Birds of Edwin B. Forsythe Wildlife Refuge.* It contains information on many of the birds seen here, as well as which ones you're likely to see in what season, and even a bird checklist so you can keep track of the birds you've spotted.

Autumn is the best time to visit, when birds are heading south to warmer climates. Spring is also good, when the birds are reversing the process and going north for the summer months.

❖ ***Tip:*** *During the warmer weather, the refuge is host to a rather large and significantly nasty biting fly population that quickly chases you back into the car if you venture outside. When the wind is blowing strong, they're not as much of a problem, but on those stagnant, lazy summer days, you can see them sharpening up their knives and forks before landing on your arm. While the flies provide a tasty meal for the refuge's bird population, they can make you a tasty meal. So bring insecticide.*

Noyes Museum (Lily Lake Road, Oceanville, ☎ 609-652-8848, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-4:30, Sunday, 12-5, www.noyesmuseum.org). Rising out of the woods next to Lily Lake like some building in an alternate universe, this funky little art museum is quite a find in the wilds of southern New Jersey. The museum was founded by Fred W. Noyes Jr. and his wife Ethel (the same folks who brought you Smithville). It contains several rotating art and folk art exhibits in five galleries, their themes usually related to the mid-Atlantic region. One gallery has nothing but waterfowl and decoys. (Noyes himself was an avid decoy collector.) The other galleries feature painting, sculpture, and other fine art. This is a cozy yet elegant place, with plenty to see and a gorgeous window view of Lily Lake.

Lucy the Margate Elephant (9200 Atlantic Avenue, Margate City, ☎ 609-823-6473; Spring, weekends only, 10-5; summer, through Labor Day, Monday-Saturday, 10-8, Sunday, 10-5; www.lucytheelephant.org). Where else can you walk inside a 65-foot, 90-ton wooden elephant's stomach? Nowhere, of course; Lucy is one-of-a-kind. Built originally as a real estate attraction (back when you had to entice people to buy beachfront land) in 1881, Lucy had many careers throughout her long life, including that of tavern and private home.

However, by the early 1960s, she was so dilapidated that pigeons were roosting in holes in her tin skin. Lucy was slated to be torn down to make way for an apartment house or some other such exciting structure. But she was rescued just in the nick of time by a group of concerned citizens, who raised money to save her and move her a few blocks away to her present location.

The Save Lucy Committee continues to take care of her now that she's a National Historic Site. She is the only example of zoomorphic architecture left in America. A trip to Lucy, a tour inside of her, and a climb up to the howdah (the covered area on her back) is an experience not to be missed.

The tour starts with the guide taking you inside Lucy through a door in her hind leg. Once inside, the guide sketches a history of Lucy, there is a videotape about her, and some other displays to see. Visitors are encouraged to peek out of her eyes at the beach beyond.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Lucy is best seen in the nicer weather, when the hours she is open are more regular and you have a better chance of going up to the howdah.*

Atlantic City Historical Museum (New Jersey Avenue, Garden Pier, on the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-347-5839, 10-4 daily, www.acmuseum.org). Certainly not an all-day attraction, but this museum of Atlantic City history is nevertheless fun and full of funky memorabilia from a time long past, when the city was America's favorite resort. Located on Garden Pier at the extreme north end of the Boardwalk, the museum contains a ton of momentoes and souvenirs displayed in glass cases from early times to the days when Frank Sinatra and others used to consider Atlantic City a mandatory stop on the performing circuit. The seven-foot-high Mr. Peanut statue has a unique appeal.

Somers Mansion (1000 Shore Road, adjacent to traffic circle, Somers Point, ☎ 609-927-2212). Built in 1725 and now the oldest house in Atlantic County, this used to be the home of the Somers family, one of the wealthiest Colonial families in this part of the state. This state historical site is a fun place to spend an hour or two. The building is three stories high and overlooks Great Egg Bay. The second floor balcony provides a spectacular view of that body of water.

❦ ***Curious Fact:*** *The strange-looking roof of the Somers Mansion resembles the hull of a ship. An old legend says that if the home is tipped upside down (possibly blown into the bay by wind), it would float. If you visit the mansion, check out the upper story framework. It was thought to be constructed by a ship-builder, who made it water-tight!*

Smithville (Highway 9, Galloway Township, ☎ 609-652-7777, historic side, Monday, Saturday, 10-8, Sunday, 10-6; or ☎ 609-748-6160, village greene side, Monday-Saturday, 11-7, Sunday, 11-6; www.smithvillenj.com). You could argue forever about what the real purpose of this quaint little village started out to be, but today it's most certainly a retail haven divided into historic and more modern buildings.

Over 200 years ago, Smithville began with the Smithville Inn, a restaurant for stagecoach riders. The train killed off the stagecoach as a mode of transportation, and the inn closed, not to be reopened until 1949. Other 19th century buildings were brought to the site. As more visitors came, more buildings were constructed to attract people.

That's why Smithville is currently divided into historic and nonhistoric sides. But no matter where you are, the emphasis in Smithville today is on shopping. You can buy anything from baked goods to wine there, and then polish off the experience with dinner at the Smithville Inn. A bevy of approximately 60 cute and quaint stores are waiting for you. And don't miss feeding the ducks in Lake Meone.

Warren E. Fox Nature Center (109 Highway 50, inside Estell Manor County Park, Mays Landing, ☎ 609-625-1897, Monday-Friday, 8-4, Saturday-Sunday, 10-4). Located in Estell Manor County Park, the Warren E. Fox Nature Center is a delightful place to get back to nature along the Jersey Shore. If you ever wondered about this region's natural history, you will find out about it here. There are exhibits about the environmental and ecological aspects of the area, plus a collection of live animals that you might encounter on a walk through the woods, like turtles, snakes, and frogs. The center holds a variety of interesting environmental public programs about such topics as birdwatching.

Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum (1441 Boardwalk, Atlantic City Boardwalk, ☎ 609-347-2001, seasonal hours, www.ripley.com/atl.htm). Yeah, you're right, it is hard to believe. I mean, any place that purports to have the skeleton of the Jersey Devil and a roulette wheel made of jellybeans is going to push the boundaries of believability. But that's why this museum of tackiness, freaks and oddities is so darn compelling. This is sort of a throwback to the Atlantic City Boardwalk of yore, when there were exploding volcanoes and giant typewriters inhabiting the Boardwalk. Everything weird, wild and wonderful is on display here, including a lock of George Washington's hair.

Ocean Life Center (800 New Hampshire Avenue, Gardner's Basin, Atlantic City Boardwalk, ☎ 609-348-2880, open 10-5 daily, www.oceanlifecenter.com). Before casinos, before the Boardwalk, even before the bathers, there was the ocean. People sometimes forget about the water in the rush to find something to do in Atlantic City. The Ocean Life Center is a not-so-subtle reminder about the importance of the ocean and the creatures that live there.

Learn about sharks, eels, seahorses, whales, crabs, and dolphins, as well as many other ocean dwellers that inhabit the eight aquarium tanks at the three-story center. There's a giant 23,000-gallon tank,

and kids will have a watery blast here as well, and not just from the touch tank. They can turn a ship's wheel, learn to sail, make an ocean rubbing with crayons, or just run around and stare at all the fish. There are other attractions too, such as a collection of art works from the Coast Guard, and a particularly interesting exhibit about the sounds various sea creatures make. This is a nice change of pace from the bright lights and one-armed bandits of the casinos or the shops and sights of the Boardwalk.

❖ ***Tip:*** *If you're hungry after a day here, head to The Flying Cloud Café, inside the center.*

Storybook Land (Black Horse Pike [Route 322], Cardiff, ☎ 609-641-7847, check for operating schedule, www.storybookland.com). A throwback to how amusement parks used to be, Storybook Land is 20 acres of animals and kiddie rides with familiar themes. The park is quiet, tree-lined, and peaceful, and can easily be walked. This place has a unique charm. Strictly an attraction for the little ones.

Restaurants

A Touch of Italy (Italian, 6629 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Township, ☎ 609-646-1855).

Angelo's Fairmount Tavern (Italian, 2300 Fairmont Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-344-2439). Award-winning neighborhood restaurant/tavern.

Angeloni's II (Italian, 2400 Arctic Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-344-7875). Classic Italian cuisine served with class.

Arrowhead Inn (American, 337 West White Horse Pike, Pomona, ☎ 609-965-1991). Casual and family friendly, with large portions.

Baccanal (American, 2100 Pacific Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 800-CAESARS).

Careme's (gourmet, 5100 Black Horse Pike, on the campus of Atlantic Cape Community College, Mays Landing, ☎ 609-343-4940). This unique restaurant, located on the campus of a community college, features gourmet meals prepared by students at the Academy of Culinary Arts.

Chef Vola (Italian, 111 South Albion Place, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-345-2022). It's in a basement location, but the food is top drawer.

Chucherias Hondurenas (Hondoran, 5213 Ventnor Avenue, Ventnor, ☎ 609-487-0200). A cuisine you don't get every day, especially at the Jersey Shore.

Columbia II (Italian, 3238 White Horse Pike, Hammonton, ☎ 609-561-0907). Great food, friendly atmosphere.

Crabby's (seafood, Highway 50, Belcoville/Mays Landing, ☎ 609-625-2722). Hardshell crabs, brown paper and hammers. That's the sound of summer.

Dock's Oyster House (seafood, 2405 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-345-0092). It was great when Atlantic City was the Queen of Resorts, and it's great now in the gambling era.

Fai's (Asian, 24th & Atlantic Avenue, Longport, ☎ 609-823-4500). A touch of the mysterious Orient here in New Jersey.

Fedeli's (Italian, 9403 Ventnor Avenue, Margate, ☎ 609-822-1293). You have to love a place where Mom comes out of the kitchen to sing.

The Forks Inn Restaurant and Marina (American, 4800 Pleasant Mills Road, Sweetwater, ☎ 609-567-8899).

Girasole (Italian, 3108 Pacific Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-345-5554). Varied menu of upscale Italian cuisine.

Golden Pyramid (Egyptian/Italian, 4176 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing, ☎ 609-569-9996). Besides the unique cuisine type offered, the food is just plain tasty.

Hi Point (Tavern, 5 N. Shore Road, Absecon, ☎ 609-641-3172). A varied menu makes this tavern a winner.

Irish Pub & Inn (Irish, 164 South St. James, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-345-9613).

Jo-Jo's (Italian, Black Horse Pike & S. Main Street, Pleasantville, ☎ 609-646-8332). A good place for brick oven pizza.

Knife and Fork Inn (seafood, Albany & Pacific avenues, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-344-1133).

Inn at Sugar Hill (American, 5704 Mays Landing-Somers Point Road, Mays Landing, ☎ 609-625-2226). Besides the great food, this restaurant offers dining just a short distance from the Great Egg Harbor River.

Le Palais (French, Resorts Casino Hotel, 1133 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-340-6400).

Library III (steak, 6505 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Township, ☎ 609-645-7655). Great steak and prime rib, and a tremendous salad bar.

Los Amigos (Mexican, 1926 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-344-2293).

Medici (Italian, The Sands, Indiana Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-441-4200).

Melissa's Bistro (eclectic, 9307 Ventnor Avenue, Margate, ☎ 609-823-1414).

Peregrine's (contemporary, Hilton Casino, Boston Avenue & the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-347-7111).

Ram's Head Inn (American, 9 W. White Horse Pike, Absecon, ☎ 609-652-1700). Hard to beat this award-winning and internationally known restaurant.

Renault Winery Restaurant (American, 72 N. Bremen Avenue, Egg Harbor City, ☎ 609-965-2111). Dining at this great old historic winery is a treat not to be missed.

Scannicchio's (Italian, 119 S. California Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-348-6378). Cozy Italian restaurant.

Seagate Landing (seafood, 885 21st Street, Avalon Anchorage Marina, Avalon, ☎ 609-967-3592). Peaceful bay view and great food are an unbeatable combination.

Smithville Inn (American, Highway 9, Smithville, ☎ 609-652-7777).

The Figlio (Italian, 500 W. White Horse Pike, Galloway Township, ☎ 609-965-3303).

Tun Tavern (Brewpub, 2 Ocean Way, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-347-7800).

White House (submarine sandwiches, 2301 Arctic Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-345-1564). Long a popular favorite of locals who know their hoagies… uh, grinders… uh, subs.

Accommodations

Absecon

American Lodge (232 E. White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 800-452-4050).

Best Western Courtyard (701 White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 800-528-1234, 609-645-0697).

Comfort Inn-North (539 Absecon Boulevard, ☎ 800-233-4656, 609-641-7272).

Days Inn Absecon (224 E. White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 800-755-9987, 609-652-2200).

Dr. Jonathan Pitney House Bed & Breakfast (57 Shore Road, ☎ 609-569-1799).

Budget Lodge (230 East White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 800-652-3111, 609-652-1333).

Fairfield Inn By Marriott (405 East Absecon Boulevard, ☎ 800-228-2800, 609-646-5000).

Hampton Inn Absecon (240 East White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 609-652-2500).

Liberty Inn (252 East White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 877-542-3800).

Luxury Inn (630 White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 800-244-5545).

Red Carpet Inn (206 East White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 800-251-1962, 609-652-3322).

Superlodge (633 White Horse Pike/Highway 30, ☎ 609-641-0085).

Brigantine

Clipper Ship Motel (105 E. Brigantine Avenue, ☎ 609-266-7161).

La Sammana Hotel (1400 W. Brigantine Boulevard, ☎ 800-445-4000, 609-266-4000).

Ramada Vacation Suites (1400 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-266-2266).

Sea Gull (200 E. Brigantine Avenue & 2nd Street North, ☎ 609-266-7459).

Atlantic City

Ascot Motor Inn (Iowa & Pacific Avenues, ☎ 800-225-1476, 609-344-5163).

Atlantic Palace Suites (1507 Boardwalk at New York Avenue, ☎ 800-527-8483, 609-344-1200).

Bally's Park Place-Wild West – A Hilton Casino Resort (Park Place & Boardwalk, ☎ 800-225-5977, 609-340-2000).

Best Western-Envoy Inn (1416 Pacific Avenue, ☎ 609-344-7117).

Boardwalk Motel (175 S. Tennessee Avenue, ☎ 609-344-8956).

Burgandy Motor Inn (116 S. North Carolina Avenue, ☎ 800-777-7469, 609-345-5665).

Caesar's Atlantic City (2100 Pacific Avenue, ☎ 800-443-0104, 609-348-4411).

Casino City Hotel & Suites (500 North Albany Avenue, ☎ 800-292-6384, 609-344-9085).

Chelsea Hotel (8 South Morris Avenue, ☎ 609-345-4916).

Claridge Casino Hotel (Boardwalk & Park Place, ☎ 609-340-3400 or 1-800-257-8585).

Comfort Inn Boardwalk (154 South Kentucky Avenue, ☎ 888-24-SLEEP, 609-348-4000).

Continental Inn (137 S. Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard, ☎ 800-634-1706, 609-345-5141).

Days Inn Boardwalk (Morris Avenue on the Boardwalk, ☎ 800-325-2525, 609-344-6101).

Econo Lodge Atlantic City (Morris and Pacific avenues, ☎ 609-344-2925).

Econo Lodge Boardwalk (117 S. Kentucky Avenue, ☎ 609-344-9093, 800-323-6410).

El Greco Motel (3200 Pacific Avenue, ☎ 609-345-6195).

Flagship Resort (60 N. Maine Avenue, ☎ 800-647-7890, 609-343-7447).

Flamingo Motel (3101 Pacific Avenue, ☎ 800-756-7808, 609-344-3061).

Golden East Motel (169 S. Kentucky Avenue, ☎ 800-497-1769).

Harrah's Atlantic City Casino Hotel (777 Harrah's Boulevard, ☎ 609-441-5000 or 1-800-242-7724).

Hilton Casino Resort (Boston Avenue & the Boardwalk, ☎ 800-257-8677, 609-340-7100).

Holiday Inn Boardwalk (Chelsea Avenue & the Boardwalk, ☎ 609-348-2200, 800-HOLIDAY).

Howard Johnson (1339 Pacific Avenue, ☎ 800-341-2279, 609-344-4193).

Irish Pub & Inn (164 South St. James, ☎ 609-344-9063).

Journey's End (250 White Horse Pike, ☎ 866-818-5300).

Knight's Inn (124 S. North Carolina Avenue, ☎ 800-843-5644, 609-345-0155).

La Renaissance Suites (190 South Kentucky Avenue, ☎ 609-348-1343).

McGettigan's Salon (440 N. Albany Avenue, ☎ 609-344-3030).

Quality Inn (South Carolina & Pacific Avenues, ☎ 800-874-5856, 609-345-7070).

Resorts Casino Hotel (North Carolina & Boardwalk, ☎ 800-336-6378, 609-344-6000).

Royal Suites (1501 Boardwalk, ☎ 800-647-7890).

Sands Hotel & Casino (Indiana Avenue & Brighton Park, ☎ 800-257-8580, 609-441-4000).

Seacomber Motel (1630 North Albany Avenue, ☎ 609-348-3171).

Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel (Two Miss America Way, ☎ 609-344-3535).

Showboat Casino Hotel (Delaware Avenue & the Boardwalk, ☎ 609-343-4000 or 1-800-621-0200).

Sunset Inn of America (1400 Absecon Boulevard, ☎ 609-344-3555).

Sunset Inn of America At the Marina (1600 Absecon Boulevard, ☎ 609-344-1975).

Tropicana Casino and Entertainment Resort (Brighton Avenue & the Boardwalk, ☎ 800-257-6227, 609-340-4000).

Trump's Marina Casino Resort (Huron Avenue & Brigantine Boulevard, ☎ 609-441-2000).

Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino (Mississippi Avenue & Boardwalk, ☎ 609-441-6000 or 1-800-677-7378).

Trump Taj Mahal Hotel Casino & Resort (1000 Boardwalk at Virginia Avenue, ☎ 800-825-8786, 609-449-1000).

Egg Harbor

Tuscany House Hotel (2111 Bremen Avenue, ☎ 609-965-2111).

Egg Harbor Township

Inn of the Dove (6665 Black Horse Pike, ☎ 800-424-3683, 609-645-1100).

Galloway Township

Seaview Marriott Resort and Spa (401 South New York Road, ☎ 609-652-1800).

Hammonton

Ramada Inn (308 White Horse Pike, ☎ 609-561-5700).

Pleasantville

Days Inn Pleasantville (6708 Tilton Road, ☎ 800-325-2525, 609-641-4500).

Econo Lodge (6641 Black Horse Pike, ☎ 800-872-2609).

Ventnor

Carisbrooke Inn (105 S. Little Rock Avenue, ☎ 609-822-6392).

Monaco Motel (111 South Little Rock Avenue, ☎ 800-822-7118, 609-822-7118).

West Atlantic City

Clarion Hotel Atlantic City West (6821 Black Horse Pike, ☎ 609-272-0200 or 1-800-782-9237).

Clarion Hotel Golf and Tennis Resort (8029 Black Horse Pike, ☎ 800-999-9466, 609-641-3546).

Comfort Inn Victorian (6817 Black Horse Pike, ☎ 800-228-5150, 609-646-8880).
Comfort Inn West (7095 Black Horse Pike, ☎ 800-458-1138, 609-645-1818).
Ramada Limited Bayside (8037 Black Horse Pike, ☎ 800-851-9505, 609-646-5220).

Shopping

Malls

Hamilton Mall (4400 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing, ☎ 609-646-8326).
Ocean One (2100 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-347-8086).
Shore Mall (6725 Black Horse Pike, Egg Harbor Township, ☎ 609-484-9500).

Shopping Areas

Historic Smithville (Highway 9, Smithville, ☎ 609-652-7777).
The Village Green (Highway 9, Smithville, ☎ 609-748-6160).

Cape May County

Cape May County Towns	
Avalon Boro	Ocean City
Cape May	Sea Isle City
Cape May Court House	Stone Harbor
Cape May Point	Upper Township
Dennis Township	West Cape May
Lower Township	West Wildwood
Middle Township	Wildwood
North Wildwood	Wildwood Crest
Woodbine	

Long ago, when the Jersey Shore as a vacation spot was just a gleam in a few visionary eyes, there was Cape May. One of the earliest resorts in the nation, Cape May was a popular destination primarily for Southerners in its early years. Wealthy families from the South would come by steamboat to stay in Cape May, which geographically actually lies below the famous Mason-Dixon Line (as do other parts of the southern New Jersey Shore). In the 1850s the town even contained the largest hotel in the world – the Mount Vernon.

But the Civil War put an end to Cape May's first Golden Era. Following that conflict the region suffered a terrible fire in 1878 that further crippled tourism. It bounced back somewhat in the late 19th century, and many of the current Victorian structures that symbolize the city today were built at that time. But with other New Jersey resort areas like Atlantic City and Asbury Park going ahead full

throttle, Cape May went into a slow decline as it was eclipsed by other, newer places.

Ironically, it was the Great March Storm of 1962 that really turned Cape May around. Cape May took a serious wallop from the massive Nor'easter. With so much devastation from the storm staring them in the face, local leaders decided to rebuild, restore and emphasize the Victorian architectural style that so dominated the town. Today, the wisdom of that decision is borne out by the number of tourists that flood the town throughout the year. The town is a magnet for those who love anything Victorian, and with a schedule of events virtually all year long, Cape May has managed to escape the Memorial Day-Labor Day short season under which most other Shore tourist areas operate.

But Cape May is hardly the only reason to visit Cape May County. There is **Wildwood**, which has the most rip-roaring boardwalk you're likely to find anywhere. There's also **Ocean City**, several nature-oriented areas, a bird sanctuary, a place to find "diamonds" just lying around on a beach, a lighthouse, and even a zoo.

So come on down to Cape May County. If Victorian architecture isn't your thing, you're certain to find something else that is.

Who Invented the Submarine?

History comes down squarely on the side of John Holland. Yet there is compelling evidence that the real undersea pioneer was Cape May County's own Simon Lake. A member of the family that founded Ocean City, Lake submitted plans in 1893 for a submarine that launched torpedoes and had wheels on the bottom for traveling along the ocean floor. Rebuffed continually by the US military and by private investors for the funds necessary to build his sub, by mid-1895 Lake finally succeeded in building *Argonaut Jr.* This was a spectacularly successful submarine, paving the way for the *Argonaut* two years later. But Holland, despite many failures, developed a superior propulsion system, and thus won the submarine-development competition.

Best Bets

Cape May (Cape May, Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 609-884-5508, www.capemaychamber.com; Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, ☎ 609-884-5404, 800-275-4278, www.capemaymac.org). This is truly a no-brainer for one of the best bets in Cape May County. A thriving resort

up until the Civil War, Cape May settled into a long, slow decline in the years following the 1890s until they decided in the mid-1960s to begin emphasizing the town's Victorian past and architecture.

The results have been more rewarding than anybody could have hoped. Except for the dead-of-winter months of January and February, there is always something Victorian-related going on in Cape May. Even at Christmas, when the rest of the Jersey Shore has long since rolled up the boardwalks and gone into hibernation, Cape May is rocking and rolling. In fact, the holiday season is positively bustling at Cape May.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Cape May has so much going on, it can often be overwhelming. A good place to get your bearings is the* ***Information Kiosk*** *in the "front" of the pedestrian shopping mall (across from the Star of the Sea Church). Here you can find the trolley schedule, house tour information and many other things.*

Cape May is not your typical Jersey Shore resort town on the order of Seaside Heights or Wildwood. It is a much more sedate place, one in which nightclubs and boardwalks have been replaced by afternoon teas and trolley rides. If you're looking for amusements, beaches, and arcades for the little ones, this is not the place.

❖ ***Tip:*** *There are many wonderful Victorian buildings in Cape May. The* ***Emlen Physick House*** *in the center of town at 1048 Washington Street is spectacular. This 16-room stick-style house was designed by famed architect Frank Furness. The house has been turned into Cape May's only Victorian house museum. If you want a real introduction to Victorian life and lifestyles, take a guided tour of the Physick House.*

A visit to Cape May at practically any time of the year is an experience that cannot be duplicated. Spend some time strolling through the town's historic district. The houses – many of which are bed & breakfasts – are incredibly gorgeous. People sit outside on the porch in rocking chairs, sipping lemonade or tea and eating cakes, the gardens are ablaze with color, and if you close your eyes, you can hear the rustle of hoop skirts and the opening of parasols from another era. The town emphasizes this by frequently offering special events, such as Victorian Week.

But, although much of Cape May's attraction is centered in the historic district, the entire town has the charm of another era. You'll see it in the pedestrian shopping mall in the center of town, and along its small but enjoyable boardwalk. Life is just a little slower here, a little more relaxed, and a little friendlier. Put your pagers and cell phones away when you come to genteel Cape May; it's definitely time to relax.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Cape May has numerous Victorian house-related tours that display the beautifully decorated interiors of these gorgeous structures. Many of them are run by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, commonly known as "MAC." Check with MAC before you go to Cape May, since tour schedules differ according to day and season.* ☎ *609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278, www.capemaymac.org.*

Visitor information is also available from the Chamber of Commerce, ☎ 609-884-5508, www.capemaychamber.com.

Don't forget that Cape May often has special events occurring. These will not only affect the tour schedule, but it'll crowd the town immensely and make it tough to get a room, find a place to eat, drive or walk around, etc. The town's inns and bed & breakfasts fill up months in advance for the popular months. A Cape May vacation is synonymous with the phrase "planning ahead."

❖ ***Tip:*** *During busy times even a mouse has trouble manuevering in the crowded streets. If walking isn't an option, then try the trolley! Cape May runs a trolley that goes through the historic district, and is a great remedy for tired feet that refuse to take another step.*

America's First Ford Dealer

You don't necessarily read of Cape May and automobiles in the same sentence, but New Jersey is full of surprises. In the early 1900s, Henry Ford staged automobile races on the Cape May beach (when the beach was much, much wider), along with Louis Chevrolet. Ford lost, and he ultimately had to sell his car in order to pay his hotel bill. The man who bought it opened a Ford dealership in Cape May three years later, becoming America's first Ford dealer.

Cape May Point State Park (Lighthouse Road, Cape May Point, ☎ 609-884-2159, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This is one of the best parks in the country. You can: (1) swim, (2) climb a lighthouse, (3) explore natural areas, (4) see tons of birds, and (5) frolic in the surf or on the sand in the shadow of a possibly haunted World War II bunker? This 190-acre park is open for fun all year.

Tip: *Although people swim at Cape May Point, there are no lifeguards. In addition, underwater rocks and swift currents are common. If you do decide to swim (which is permitted at your own risk), be careful!*

The **Cape May Point Lighthouse** recently underwent a multi-million dollar restoration effort. At 157 feet high, it is one of the tallest at the Jersey Shore. A trip to the top, while worth it for the view, will definitely test your endurance. It's 218 steps.

❖ ***Tip:*** *The tip of Cape May is one of the most popular spots in North America for viewing the fall migration.*

The natural area of the park has two trails that offer a great view for the naturalist or the budding nature lover. The bird viewing comes in all over. Birders "flock" to Cape May all year because the watching is just that good. The park is located on the Atlantic Flyway. Hawks, shorebirds, songbirds, falcons and eagles are just some of the birds you can spot. The Visitor's Center offers pamphlets that identify the birds at the park and also have information on the natural area.

The **concrete bunker** is a World War II relic that somehow remains standing on ancient pilings along the shoreline. Built in 1942, it was a key part of the United States' Coastal Defense Network. It guarded the entrance from Delaware Bay and prevented Nazi submarines from slipping past. At that time, it was approximately 900 feet from the water. But now, thanks to the severe erosion that plagues all of Cape May's beaches, it is completely in the water.

❦ ***Curious Fact?*** *Some people believe that the World War II bunker is haunted. They claim to have heard and seen phantom sailors shouting orders and scurrying around the bunker. Once you see the bunker, you'll understand why it's so ripe for such an experience. It's an old, decrepit, salt-water-stained, concrete monstrosity that sits on pilings that look as if they could barely support a sea gull. If it's not haunted, it should be!*

Wildwood and Boardwalk (Wildwood, ☎ 888-729-0033 or 609-729-4000, www.gwcoc.com). What people commonly refer to as "Wildwood" is actually three towns: North Wildwood, Wildwood, and Wildwood Crest. While all three Wildwoods have nice, wide beachs, the place with all the action as far as a boardwalk and amusements galore goes is just plain Wildwood.

❖ ***Tip:*** *All three Wildwoods can get enormously crowded during the height of summer. If you are just planning a day trip and don't need a place to stay, this won't impact you. However, if you want to stay in the Wildwoods or nearby, then plan ahead.*

If you've never seen the two-mile Wildwood boardwalk at night in the summertime, with its seemingly never-ending neon display of rides, video parlors, food stands, and stores, then you're missing one of the

most awe-inspiring sights. Your wallet will begin sobbing as it realizes how many times you're going to take it out in one night as you sample the incredible cornucopia of places where you can spend money. Rides, food, shops, miniature golf, arcades… no boardwalk compares to Wildwood.

The same goes for the beaches. While others are wide and some are free along the Jersey Shore, no beach is as wide and free as Wildwood's, which is close to 1,000 feet across in some spots. It's the kind of place where you can find a spot to spread your towel, start walking toward the water, and have to stop to rest before you reach it!

People always wonder why the Wildwood beaches are so big, and the answer, ironically, is erosion. The same environmental factors that have been steadily robbing the sand from Cape May and other places have been depositing all those granules at Wildwood. So the beaches there have been steadily getting built up all these years, while poor Cape May and other places try to hold onto every precious grain of sand they have.

The boardwalk is so long that your feet start complaining before you even set foot on the boards. Fortunately, the folks at Wildwood operate a tram car system that runs from one end of the boardwalk to the other. The system ferries people up and down, dropping them off at convenient intervals. It's a great way to travel.

Join the Doo-Wop Preservation League

While other towns quickly put the lava lamps and all the tacky 1950s decor (think pink flamingos) behind them, Wildwood has embraced them with a passion. Over 200 buildings in town are '50s-oriented, and the town protects and encourages doo-wop artifacts and architecture with a Cape May-like preservation passion. The town even has its own watchdog: the Doo-Wop Preservation League. In-season, there are trolley tours of the town's 1950s architecture. So if you have a yearning for female singing groups, beatniks and plastic palm trees, get yourself to Wildwood, Daddy-O. Crazy!

Hereford Inlet Lighthouse (11 North Central Avenue, North Wildwood, ☎ 609-522-4520, 9-5 mid-May to mid-October, 10-4 mid-October to mid-May, www.herefordlighthouse.org). This is a lighthouse to end all lighthouses, and not because of its shape or height. Rather, it's the surrounding gardens that make this the most incredibly beautiful lighthouse park you'll ever see.

Many people call this the "house" lighthouse because it resembles a Victorian house. The structure was built in 1874.

While the lighthouse is interesting and pretty, with the usual collection of sea-faring objects, it's what's outside that makes this a must-see. Most folks can't even get weeds to grow in the Shore's sandy soil, but the agency that tends to the lighthouse grounds has managed to create a garden that rivals something you'd see at Duke Gardens or Longwood. Do yourself a favor and go in mid- to late spring, when the earth has been nourished by gentle rains and Hereford's flowers and bushes are at their most vibrant. The gardens explode in a crazy quilt of color that is breathtaking to behold. Or else go in early summer, mid-June to mid-July, when it seems as if everything is in bloom!

Any season is fine for going to Hereford Inlet, because of the lush greenery, both deciduous and not, that surrounds the place. The gardens are planted in the English cottage style, and feature over 170 varieties of plants and thousands of individual flowers.

Ocean City and Boardwalk (Ocean City, ☎ 800-BEACH-NJ, www.oceancityvacation.com). Ocean City bills itself as "America's Greatest Family Resort," partly because it's a dry (no alcohol allowed) town, but Ocean City also has a nice beach and great boardwalk. During the busy tourist season the town often has fun special events going on, such as a film festival or hermit crab race. The boardwalk is more sedate than Wildwood's, but still one of the best on the Jersey Shore, with a mixture of shops and amusements. Call it a combination of Atlantic City's Boardwalk and Wildwood's.

> ***Curious Fact:*** *If you spend any time in Ocean City, you're bound to hear the word* Sindia. *It is the name of a shipwrecked ship that has been slowly but surely sinking into the sand. All that's left now is the rudder post and tiller, but it's still fascinating to see at 16th and the Boardwalk. If you want to be a true Ocean City-ite, you'll go to visit the* Sindia.

Ocean City is very similar to Long Beach Island in that people who initially go for vacation sometimes wind up buying a home. The town has a special, family-friendly atmosphere that strikes an agreeable chord with some people, and not just because the alcohol ban makes Ocean City a little less rowdy than other Shore towns, especially in the summer.

Ocean City's beach and boardwalk are two of the nicest on the Jersey Shore. If the boardwalk's pleasing combination of shops, amusements, and arcades doesn't hold your interest, there are numerous city-sponsored special events to keep you busy. These run the gamut

from hermit crab races to a suntan tournament, all in the name of family fun.

The Ocean City Division of Recreation has counselors at the city's numerous playgrounds and athletic fields, where tennis, softball and shuffleboard are available.

When you factor in additional activities like fishing and boating, it's no wonder that Ocean City's summer population soars to an estimated 150,000 from about 20,000 in the off-season.

The Dry Town

Back in 1879, when the Jersey Shore was still nothing but mostly deserted beachfront and scrub pines, Ocean City was founded by three Methodist ministers who were members of the Lake family. They intended that the town be a place of quiet reflection and prayer, where a person could escape the pressures and temptations of everyday life and pursue Christian values. They especially intended that the Sabbath remain free from desecrating elements such as alcohol. That's the way Ocean City started, and that's the way it has remained.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Visit the Ocean City Historical Museum to learn all about the region's early days through photographs, postcards, and more. There is also much information about the* Sindia. ☎ *609-399-1801, or visit www.ocnjmuseum.org, for more information.*

Cape May County Zoo (Highway 9 & Crest Haven Road, Cape May Court House, ☎ 609-465-5271, open 9-5, www.capemaycountyzoo.com). This is where you go to see 170 species of animals for free. It's a fantastic zoo of approximately 140 acres, located in Cape May County Park and run extraordinarily well by Cape May County on just patron donations. Among the animals on display are bobcats, exotic birds, foxes, giraffes, monkeys, lions and zebras. Even a fire a few years ago that destroyed the Reptile House didn't slow this place down. This is a first-class zoo of the type that you expect to find only in a big city, not a resort area.

Historic Cold Spring Village (720 Highway 9, Cape May, ☎ 609-898-2300, open June-September, 10-4, www.hcsv.org). What do you do with a bunch of old buildings from another century? Demolish them… or turn them into a living history re-creation of a 19th- century South Jersey farm village? If you're Cape May County, then you

do the latter. The result is Cold Spring Village, a combination history/shopping experience.

Long ago, Cold Spring supplied fresh water and produce to Cape May. Local legend held that the water was "good for what ails ye," helping to cure numerous diseases.

Unfortunately, there's none of that miraculous healing power available today. What you will find in Cold Spring, however, is a fascinating living history experience that re-creates life in a South Jersey community circa-1850. Over two dozen buildings are located here, on a 22-acre wooded site, with people in period dress during the tourist season explaining how they perform their craft, such as weaving and cooking.

During the busy summer season, Cold Spring Village offers a spate of special events and activities, such as antique shows, craft fairs, Civil War weekends, Native American weekends, and more. If you get hungry prowling around this pleasant tree-lined place, there is a bakery, restaurant and, thankfully, an ice cream parlor. Call first if you're planning a summer trip, because it gets awfully crowded on event days. The combination of history and the opportunity for shopping makes this an unbeatable experience.

Wetlands Institute (1075 Stone Harbor Boulevard, Stone Harbor, ☎ 609-368-1211, mid-May to mid-October, 9:30-4:30, Monday-Saturday, 10-4, Sunday; mid-October to mid-May, 9:30-4:30, Tuesday-Saturday; www.wetlandsinstitutr.org). This place may not seem like much at first, but it's actually kind of a living, breathing laboratory that teaches the value of coastal ecosystems (what we used to call "swamps"). Climb up onto the observation tower, drink in the solitude and peace of the surrounding area and the fact that it's home to hundreds of species, and then you'll start to appreciate the value of coastal ecosystems.

The Wetlands Institute is a private, non-profit group that studies and researches these ecosystems, and tries to educate the general population about their importance. They advertise it as "the natural place to have fun," and it's all that and more.

Inside the Institute itself you'll find such things as a laboratory, exhibits about the salt marsh, a small aquarium, a touch tank, a hands-on display for kids, and other things to see and do.

Outside there's a marsh trail that, if it's not too muddy, can provide quite an environmental education from just a walk. You can obtain a pamphlet about the trail inside the Institute. The Institute also sponsors lectures, conducts tours of salt marshes, and provides programs for children. Once you've been here, you'll never look at

wetlands the same way again, and you'll realize why environmentalists are so intent on saving them.

Leaming's Run Gardens (1845 Highway 9, Cape May Court House, ☎ 609-465-5871, mid-May to mid-October, 9:30-5, www.leamingsrungardens.com). It's composed of 25 gardens amid 30 acres, and is the largest annual garden in the United States. Bees must consider this beautiful place a vacation destination. Take a walk among the flowers and plants set between the bridges and ponds, and you'll understand why. It's divided into specific gardens, with descriptive names like the "Yellow Garden" and the "Blue Garden."

Unlike many other gardens that have their best days during the springtime, Leaming's Run is most spectacular in summer. That's also when you're most likely to see hummingbirds. (They frequently hang out – or "hum out" – by the gazebo, especially in August.) While many gardens have plants cut and landscaped very precisely, at Leaming's Run the plants run riot. Visitors are clearly meant to feel a part of nature's beauty, rather than just stare.

Smack dab in the middle of all this floral beauty is the re-creation of a late 1600s farm. It represents the time when Thomas Leaming first settled the area. A tour of the log cabin (where Leaming lived while the main house was being built) and of the farmed ground outside bring to life the early days of Cape May County. There's also a barn called the Cooperage that Leaming built when he retired from whaling and became a barrel maker (or cooper). It now has gifts for sale such as candles and dried flowers. It's also instructional in that you can see the type of dried flower arrangements that early settlers used to add color to their homes.

Stone Harbor Bird Sanctuary (114th Street & Third Avenue, Stone Harbor, ☎ 609-368-6101, www.stoneharborbeach.com). A unique place, because it's the only heronry in the United States operated by a municipality. At this writing, its one counterpart in the entire world is in Japan. You'll see plenty of egrets, herons, and ibises on the 21 acres here, especially if you visit very early in the morning (right after dawn) in late July and early August. This is the end of the nesting season (birds, like people, also pack up their summer digs, they just do it much earlier), when the birds are extremely active. Some estimate that there are more than 10,000 birds in the sanctuary at that time.

❖ ***Tip:*** *By Thanksgiving, most Shore towns have settled down for a long winter's nap. But not Stone Harbor. The town hosts a gala Thanksgiving weekend celebration, complete with music and entertainment, parades, and merchants serving food to patrons.*

Cape May-Lewes Ferry (Sandman Boulevard & Lincoln Drive, Cape May, ☎ 609-889-7200, www.capemaylewesferry.com). Do you like your car so much that you want to do things together with it? Then take a trip together on the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, which travels across the Delaware Bay from Cape May to Lewes, Delaware. The bay is bigger than you might imagine, and there are times on this trip that you'll feel as if you're in the middle of the ocean, because there's just no land to be seen on the horizon. But the trip is fun, and there's soda and chips on the ferry to share with your car!

❖ ***Tip:*** *During the prime vacation season in the summer, the Cape May-Lewes Ferry gets very crowded. To get a place for your car it's best to arrive early, or well in advance of the time you want to cross. If you don't get there early, you run the risk of being left behind. There are only so many spots for cars.*

Sunset Beach (Foot of Sunset Boulevard, Cape May Point, ☎ 609-898-9077, www.sunsetbeachnj.com). It's not often that you can pick up "diamonds" and see the remnants of a concrete ship (yes, concrete) at the same time, but you can at Sunset Beach.

First of all, there's the sunset. Because of its position at the very southern tip of New Jersey, sunsets here are spectacular, with a 100% unobstructed horizon line.

Cape May "diamonds," as they're known, are tiny pieces of clear quartz polished to a diamond-like sheen by the relentless action of the water. Many of these "gems" come from the upper part of the Delaware River, where they begin their journey – which can take thousands of years – to Sunset Beach, at the mouth of Delaware Bay. Sometimes they're deposited on the beach by the water, just waiting for eager visitors to scoop them up. They can be small, pebble-sized nuggets, or sometimes much larger. (The largest one ever found was the size of an egg.) If you can't find any diamonds on the beach, gift shops in the area also sell them.

The concrete ship is the *Atlantus*, which was built out of concrete because of a steel shortage during World War I. Ticketed after the war to become part of a ferry dock, the *Atlantus* broke loose from its moorings in 1926 and went aground in the water off Sunset Boulevard. Efforts to free it failed, and now it sinks into the bottom a tiny bit more each year. All you see of this 3,000-ton, 250-foot-long vessel is a tiny tip sticking above the water. At present it's a State Historic Site.

❦ ***Curious Fact:*** *Cape May Point used to be called Sea Grove, and was founded as a religious community like Ocean Grove.*

Belleplain State Forest (Route 550, Woodbine, ☎ 609-861-2404, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This 20,000-acre natural facility is the perfect place to go as an alternative to all of the seaside tourist attractions. The park began in the late 1920s, and was further built up by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Scientists believe that the strands of young pine, oak and Southern white cedar found in the forest reflect better soil conditions and less fire damage than similar forested areas farther north in the Pinelands.

Here there are a multitude of things to do. On the top of the list is swimming in Lake Nummy, which is named in honor of the last chief of the Lenni Lenape Indians to rule in Cape May County. There is also boating/canoeing, fishing, hunting, picnic tables, numerous campsites, hiking/nature trails, an interpretive center, and a playground.

Corson's Inlet State Park (Ocean Drive, Ocean City, ☎ 609-861-2404). Not a very big state park, certainly, but a nice one. Relatively new as state parks go (established in 1969), Corson's Inlet was founded to help protect and preserve one of the last undeveloped areas along New Jersey's Atlantic coast. Wildlife is prevalent here, and as you can probably guess, this is a popular place for birdwatching. Among other activities available are hiking, crabbing, fishing and boating. This is a good place to relax if you're seeking to escape from resort craziness.

> ***Trivia:*** *Around the turn of the century Cape May Point's beach contained a large wooden elephant similar to Lucy the Margate Elephant (see page 50). This one was called the Light of Asia. But, like Lucy, it wasn't a very good salesperson. The Light of Asia fell into disrepair and was eventually demolished.*

Restaurants

410 Bank Street (Creole/French/Caribbean, 410 Bank Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-2127). Popular eatery in a converted 19th-century carriage house.

Alexander's Inn (French, 653 Washington Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-2555).

Axelsson's Blue Claw (seafood, 991 Ocean Drive, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-5878). Long a popular favorite among locals and visitors.

Big Bertha's (barbecue, 222 E. Schellenger Avenue, Wildwood, ☎ 609-522-5226). If you like barbecue, you've got to try this place.

Blue Planet Diner (diner, 841 Asbury Avenue, Ocean City, ☎ 609-525-9999). Nothin' could be finer than food from this diner….

Braca Café (Italian, Kennedy Boulevard, Sea Isle City, ☎ 609-263-4271).

Cucina Rosa (Italian, 301 Washington Mall, Cape May, ☎ 609-898-9800).

Culinary Garden and Inn (seafood, 841 Central Avenue, Ocean City, ☎ 609-399-3713).

Daniel's On Broadway (American, 416 S. Broadway, Cape May, ☎ 609-898-8770). Award-winner with a fantastic seasonal Sunday brunch.

Deauville Inn (International, 201 Willard Road, Strathmere, ☎ 609-263-2080).

Dragon House (Chinese, 3616 Pacific Avenue, Wildwood, ☎ 609-522-2320).

Ebbit Room at the Virginia Hotel (American, 25 Jackson Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-5700). Historic location, elegant atmosphere, great food.

Fresco's (Italian, 412 Bank Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-0366). Popular favorite where the wafting smell of garlic bread actually brings people in to the restaurant.

Kushimbo (Japanese, 330 96 Street, Stone Harbor, ☎ 609-967-7007).

Lobster House (seafood, 906 Schellenger's Landing Road, Fisherman's Wharf, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-8296). Long time local and visitor favorite with fresh fish brought in by local boats.

Louisa's Café (American, 104 Jackson Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-5882). Cozy café with excellent food.

The Mad Batter (American, 19 Jackson Street, Carroll Villa Hotel, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-5970). A long time favorite in Cape May.

The Magnolia Room (Southern, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-8409). Cape May got its start as a resort for Southerners, so why not a restaurant specializing in Southern cuisine?

Marie Nicole's (eclectic American, 9510 Pacific Avenue, Wildwood Crest, ☎ 609-522-5425). A local favorite now finding a growing audience of tourists.

Merion's Inn (American, 106 Decatur Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-8363). Fine food in an historic building that dates to the 1880s.

O'Donnell's Pour House (American, 3907 Landis Avenue, Sea Isle City, ☎ 609-263-5600). Traditional Irish atmosphere but American food, with an open-air kitchen where you can watch the culinary staff perform their wizardry.

Peaches at Sunset (Contemporary, 1 Sunset Boulevard, Cape May, ☎ 609-898-0100). Favorite restaurant with an international atmosphere.

Peter Shields Inn (American, 1301 Beach Drive, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-9090).

Savannah Key (family, 501 Beach Drive, Marquis de Lafayette Hotel, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-3500).

Schumann's (seafood, 5901 Atlantic Avenue, Wildwood Crest, ☎ 609-522-7050).

Spiaggi (seafood, Beach & Decatur Streets, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-3504).

Ravioli House (Italian, New Jersey and Bennett Avenues, Wildwood, ☎ 609-522-7894). A Wildwood institution that now has its own pastry shop to expand your stomach even further.

Tisha's Fine Dining (American, 714 Beach Drive, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-9119). Behind the Convention Hall lies this Cape May gem.

Union Park Dining Room (eclectic, 727 Beach Drive, Hotel Macomber, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-8811). Award-winning fine dining.

Upstairs at Cabanas (American, 429 Beach Avenue, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-4800).

Washington Inn (American, 801 Washington Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-5697). It's hard to know what's nicer here, the food or the atmosphere.

Water's Edge (seafood/American, Beach & Pittsburgh Avenues, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-1717). Creative restaurant with varied menu.

Accommodations

Cape May

The Abbey (34 Gurney Street, ☎ 609-884-4506).

Abigail Adams (12 Jackson Street, ☎ 888-827-4354, 609-884-1371).

Albert Stevens (127 Myrtle Avenue, ☎ 800-890-2287, 609-884-4717).

Alexander's (653 Washington Street, ☎ 609-884-2555).

Angel of the Sea (Beach Drive & Trenton Avenue, ☎ 800-848-3369, 609-884-3369).

Ashley Rose (715 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-2497).

Atlas Inn (1035 Beach Drive, ☎ 888-ATLASINN, 609-884-7000).

Avondale by the Sea (Beach Avenue & Gurney Street, ☎ 800-676-7030, 609-884-2332).

Bacchus Inn (710 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-2129).

Barnard Good House (238 Perry Street, ☎ 609-884-5381).

Bayberry Inn (223 Perry Street, ☎ 877-923-9232, 609-884-9232).

Beauclaire's (23 Ocean Street, ☎ 609-898-1222).

Bedford Inn (805 Stockton Avenue, ☎ 609-884-4158).

Blue Amber Motel (Madison & Virginia Avenues, ☎ 800-371-8266, 609-884-8266).

The Brass Bed Inn (719 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-2302).

Buckingham Motel (1111 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-4073).

Buttonwood Manor (115 North Broadway, ☎ 609-884-4070).

Camelot Motel (103 Howard Street, ☎ 609-884-1500).

Cape Harbor Motor Inn (715 Pittsburgh Avenue, ☎ 609-884-0018).

Capri Motor Lodge (1033 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-4727).

Captain Mey's Inn (202 Ocean Street, ☎ 800-981-3702, 609-884-7793).

Carroll Villa Hotel (19 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884-9619).

Chalfonte Hotel (301 Howard Street, ☎ 609-884-8409).

Cliveden Inn & Cottage (709 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 800-884-2420, 609-884-4516).

Coachmen'a Motor Inn (205 Beach Avenue, ☎ 800-357-5828, 609-884-8463).

Colton Court (105 Beach Avenue, ☎ 609-884-5384).

Columns By the Sea (1513 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-2228).
Congress Hall (251 Beach Drive, ☎ 884-944-1816, 609-884-8421).
Delsea (621 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-8540).
Dormer House (800 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 800-884-5052, 609-884-7446).
Driftwood Motel (15 Broadway, ☎ 609-884-3348).
Duke of Windsor (817 Washington Street, ☎ 800-826-8973, 609-884-1355).
Fairthorne (111-115 Ocean Street, ☎ 800-438-8742, 609-884-8791).
Gingerbread House (28 Gurney Street, ☎ 609-884-0211).
Grand Hotel (1045 Beach Drive, ☎ 800-257-8550, 609-884-5611).
Heather Inn (821 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-5329).
Henry Sawyer Inn (722 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 800-449-5667, 609-884-5667).
Heritage Inn (721 Beach Avenue, ☎ 609-884-7300).
Hotel Alcott (107-113 Grant Street, ☎ 609-884-5868, 800-272-3004).
Hotel Macomber (727 Beach Avenue, ☎ 609-884-3020).
The Humphrey Hughes House (29 Ocean Street, ☎ 800-582-3634, 609-884-4428).
Inn At The Park (1002 Washington Street, ☎ 609-884-8406).
Inn At 22 Jackson (22 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884–2226, 800-452-8177).
The Inn on Ocean (25 Ocean Street, ☎ 609-884-7070, 800-304-4477).
John F. Craig House (609 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-0100, 877-544-0314).
Jeremiah Hand House (814 Washington Street, ☎ 609-884-1135).
Jetty Motel (2nd & Beach Avenue, ☎ 609-884-4640).
John Wesley Inn (30 Gurney Street, ☎ 609-884-1012).
King's Cottage (9 Perry Street, ☎ 877-258-1876).
La Meir Motor Inn (1317 Beach Avenue, ☎ 609-884-9000).
Leith Hall (22 Ocean Street, ☎ 609-884-1934).
Linda Lee (725 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-1240).
Luther Ogden Inn (815 Kearney Avenue, ☎ 609-898-1338).
Madison Motel (601 Madison Avenue, ☎ 609-884-4838).
The Mainstay (35 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-8690).
Manor House (612 Hughes Street, ☎ 609-884-4710).
Marquis De Lafayette Hotel (501 Beach Avenue, ☎ 800-257-0432).
Mason Cottage (625 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-3358, 800-716-2766).
Mission Inn (1117 New Jersey Avenue, ☎ 800-800-8380, 609-884-8380).
Montreal Inn (Beach at Madison Avenue, ☎ 609-884-7011, 800-525-7011).
The Mooring (801 Stockton Avenue, ☎ 609-884-5425).
Mount Vernon Motel (Beach Drive at 1st Avenue, ☎ 609-884-4665).
The Palace Suites (1101 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-898-8100, 888-SUITES2).
Periwinkle Inn (1039 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-9200).
Perry Street Inn (29 Perry Street, ☎ 800-29PERRY, 609-884-4590).

Peter Shields Inn (1301 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-9090).
Pharo's (617 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-9380).
The Poet's Inn (35 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884-9140).
Poor Richard's Inn (17 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884-3536).
The Primrose Inn (1102 Lafayette Street, ☎ 609-884-8288, 800-606-8288).
Queens Hotel (Ocean Street at Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-1613).
The Queen Victoria (102 Ocean Street, ☎ 609-884-8702).
Saltwood House (28 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884-6754, 800-830-8232).
Sand Pebble (23 First Avenue, ☎ 609-884-5860).
Sandpiper Beach Inn (11 Beach Drive & Grant Street, ☎ 609-884-4256).
Sea Breeze Motel (204 Pittsburgh Avenue, ☎ 609-884-3352).
Sea Holly Inn (815 Stockton Avenue, ☎ 609-884-6294).
Sea Crest Inn (101 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-4561).
The Southern Mansion (720 Washington Street, ☎ 609-884-7171).
Stockton Motor Inn (Beach Avenue & Howard Street, ☎ 609-884-4036).
Summer Cottage Inn (613 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-4948).
Summer Station (217 Beach Drive, ☎ 800-248-8801, 609-884-8800).
Surf Motel (211 Beach Drive, ☎ 609-884-4132).
Trellis Inn (822 Washington Street, ☎ 609-884-3361).
Twin Gables (731 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 800-966-7332, 609-884-7332).
Velia's Seaside Inn (16 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884-7004).
Victorian Lace Inn (901 Stockton Avenue, ☎ 609-884-1772).
Victorian Motel (223 Congress Place, ☎ 609-884-7044).
Victorian Rose (715 Columbia Avenue, ☎ 609-884-2497).
The Virginia Hotel (25 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884-5700, 800-732-4236).
West Cape Motel (307 Sunset Boulevard, ☎ 609-884-4280).
White Dove Cottage (619 Hughes Street, ☎ 800-321-Dove, 609-884-0613).
Windward House (24 Jackson Street, ☎ 609-884-3368).
Wooden Rabbit (609 Hughes Street, ☎ 609-884-7293).
Woodleigh House (808 Washington Street, ☎ 609-884-7123, 800-399-7123).

Cape May Court House

The Doctors Inn (2 N. Main Street, ☎ 609-463-9330).
Hy-Land Motor Inn (☎ 609-465-7305).

Mamora

Boulevard Motel (116 Roosevelt Boulevard, ☎ 609-390-1855)

North Wildwood

Candlelight Inn (2310 Central Avenue, ☎ 609-522-6200).

European (300 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-729-4622).
Ivanhoe Motel (E. 21st Avenue, ☎ 609-522-5874).
Mali Kai (417 E. 19th Avenue, ☎ 609-522-2866).
Mediterranean (405 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-522-0112).
Surf Song Motel (1800 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-523-0003).

Ocean City

Accommodations in Ocean City, as in other popular resort towns, fill up far in advance during the season. But still folks come to town without reservations. If you're one of those, check the Ocean City Information Center for up-to-the-minute data on available accommodations. There are two **Information Centers**: one is at the old municipal building at 46th and West Avenue and is open year-round; the other is in the Music Pier on the boardwalk, and is open only during summer. In addition, Ocean City has a toll-free telephone number to find out about accommodations and other things: ☎ 800-BEACH-NJ. They also have the *Ocean City Visitor's Guide.* An advance call to get your copy mailed to you is highly recommended.

Finally, the **Ocean City Guest & Apartment House Association** will help you search for accommodations, be they motel, apartment or luxurious beach house. Call ☎ 888-277-8894 (☎ 609-399-8894 within New Jersey) for up-to-the minute information on available rooms and apartments. You can also check out their website at www.shorerooms-apts.com.

1414 Central Condo (☎ 856-596-4528).
Amber Lantern (14th & Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-2632).
Anchor Inn (1018 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-8862).
Aslan's Garden (851 7th Street, ☎ 877-224-7945).
Atlantis Inn (601 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-399-9871).
Barrister's Inn (626 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-399-6456).
Bayberry Inn (811 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-391-1183).
Beach Club Hotel (1280 Boardwalk, ☎ 609-399-8555).
Beachview Apts. (1122 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-398-3165).
Biscayne Suites (820 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 800-452-1003, 609-391-8800).
Brown's Nostalgia Bed & Breakfast (1001 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-398-6364, 866-223-0400).
Bryn Mawr Hotel (724 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 888-560-8744, 609-399-8744).
Camelot Apts. (1334-36 Central Avenue, ☎ 609-814-9445).
The Chalet (1229 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-9357).
Castle by the Sea (701 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-398-3555, 800-622-4894).
Charleston B&B (928 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 800-951-4281).
Comfort-Modauson (1st Street & Corinthian Avenue, ☎ 609-399-2144).

Coral Sands Motel (9th & Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 800-582-1709, 609-399-4540).

Crossings Motor Inn (34th Street & Haven Avenue, ☎ 800-257-8811, 609-398-4433).

Days Inn (7th Street & Boardwalk, ☎ 609-398-2200).

Dune High Guest House (1215 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-1641, 800-992-6415).

The Ebbie (820 6th Street, ☎ 609-399-4744).

Econo Lodge (145th Street & Coastal Highway, ☎ 609-390-3366).

Edgewater Estates (617 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-1034).

The Enterprise Guest House (1020 Central Avenue, ☎ 609-398-4400).

The Flanders Hotel (E. 11th Street, ☎ 609-399-1000).

Forum Motor Inn (8th Street & Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-399-8700).

Garden Court Estates (617 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-1034).

Georgian Hotel (1120 Central Avenue, ☎ 609-399-0756, 888-399-0756).

Gillespie Apartments (3457 Asbury Avenue, ☎ 609-399-1748).

Glen Nor Inn (1015 Central Avenue, ☎ 800-320-4138, 609-399-4138).

Grande Central Inn (1017 Central Avenue, ☎ 800-816-8110, 609-398-7347).

Harris House (1201 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-7800).

Holly Properties (424 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-399-4422).

Impala Island Inn (1001 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-7500).

Koo Koo's Nest (615 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-814-9032).

Laurel Bay (400 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-814-1886).

Mayer's Inn & Marina (800 Bay Avenue, ☎ 609-927-3100).

Northwood Inn (401 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-6071).

The Oceanaire (826 Moorlyn Terrace, ☎ 609-399-2668).

Oceanic Motel (1110 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-1310).

Ocean Front Motel (1417 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-4757).

Ocean Manor Inn (1040 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-1014).

Osborne's Fairview Inn (601 E. 15th Street, ☎ 609-398-4319).

Outrigger Hotel (1236 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-3524).

Pavilion Motor Lodge (801 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-399-2600, 609-399-8080, 800-523-2552).

Pebble Beach Motor Lodge (900 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-3350).

Plymouth Inn (710 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-398-8615).

Port-O-Call Hotel (1510 Boardwalk, ☎ 609-399-8812).

Rose Garden Inn (1214 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-398-4889).

Sandaway Inn (617 E. 8th Street, ☎ 800-367-3042, 609-399-2779).

Scarborough Inn (720 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-1558, 800-258-1558).

Sea Mist Hotel (1402 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-2164).

Seaport Inn Motel (116 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-6101).

Seaside Apartments (836 6th Street, ☎ 609-399-0714).

Sea Wind (1238 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-398-4474).

Serenity Inn (612 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 800-814-0481, 609-814-0481).
Serendipity (712 9th Street, ☎ 800-842-8544, 609-399-1554).
Tahiti Inn & Apts. (12th & Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-399-0130).
Thomas S. Simmons House Apts. (816 Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-5852).
Tradewinds Motel (9th & Wesley Avenue, ☎ 609-399-2789).
Watson's Regency Suites (901 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-398-4300).
Wild Dunes Inn (801 10th Street, ☎ 609-399-2910).

Somers Point

Bay Point Motel – Passport Inn (8 Mays Landing Road, on the circle, 609-☎ 927-2287 or 800-251-1962).
Harbor Inn Motel (431 Bay Avenue, ☎ 609-927-7100).
Owl Motel (805-901 W. New York Avenue, ☎ 609-927-9467).
Pier 4 On the Bay (6 Broadway, ☎ 609-927-9141 or 888-927-9141).
Residence Inn by Marriott (900 Mays Landing Road, ☎ 609-927-6400 or 800-331-3131).

Wildwood

Days Inn Suites/Cypress Resort (4610 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-522-0331).
Knoll's Resort Motel (4111 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-522-8211).
Marlane Motel (4310 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-522-7463).
Pink Champagne Motel (4910 Atlantic Avenue ☎ 609-522-4857).
Quarter Deck I (320 E. Pine Avenue, ☎ 609-522-5415).
Royal Canadian Motel (3300 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-522-0950).
Sea-N-Sun Resort Motel (3909 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-522-2826).
Starlux (305 E. Rio Grande Avenue, ☎ 609-522-7412).

Wildwood Crest

Acacia Beachfront Motel & Condominium (9101 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-729-2233).
Adventurer Motor Inn (5401 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-729-1200).
Armada By-The-Sea (6503 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-729-3000).
Beau Rivage Motor Inn (9103 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-729-2121).
Biscayne Motel (7807 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-522-4444).
Bristol Plaza Resort (6407 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-729-1234).
El Coronado Motor Inn (8501 Atlantic Avenue, at East Preston Avenue, ☎ 609-729-1000).
Fleur De Lis (6105 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-522-0123).
Granada Motel (8801 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-522-9020).
Lotus Inn (6900 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-522-6300).
The Ocean Holiday Motor Inn (6501 Ocean Avenue, ☎ 609-729-2900).
Reges Oceanfront Resort (9201 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-729-9300).
Satellite Resort Motel (5909 Atlantic Avenue, ☎ 609-522-5650).

Shopping

Shopping Areas

Ocean City (☎ 609-399-1412).

Shops of Historic Cold Spring Village (720 Route 9, Cape May, ☎ 609-898-2300).

Stone Harbor (☎ 609-368-6101).

The Village Shoppes of Rio Grande (Rio Grande, ☎ 609-889-7970).

Washington Street Pedestrian Mall (426 Washington Street, Cape May, ☎ 609-884-2133).

The Northeast

Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Passaic & Union Counties

The northeast contains ribbons of roadways, such as the Turnpike and Garden State Parkway, and urban centers, like Newark and Elizabeth, that people often think of when they come to New Jersey. Most people figure that there can't be much to do up here, right? After all, isn't this area just steel and asphalt?

Wrong. If that's what you think about this part of New Jersey, then you're in for a shock. Sure, there are the crowded roadways and the urban cities; don't all states have them? But there is also an incredible wealth of things to see and do. This region is home to the only New Jersey-born President of the United States. It contains some nifty zoos, the workshop and home of one of the greatest inventors this country has ever known, some beautiful natural areas, a lovely urban park, and the first planned industrial city anywhere in America – and that's just for starters.

The northeast doesn't have as much to offer as the Atlantic Shore. It's simply not set up that way. However, there are great places for daily excursions and even weekend trips, with some surprising and quite fascinating destinations.

So if you need something to do for a day or a weekend, consider exploring one of the many delightful destinations in this region. You'll be glad you did.

Bergen County

Bergen County Towns	
Allendale	Montvale
Alpine	Moonachie
Bergenfield	New Milford
Bogota	North Arlington
Carlstadt	Northvale
Cliffside Park	Norwood
Closter	Oakland
Cresskill	Old Tappan
Demarest	Oradel
Dumont	Palisades Park
East Rutherford	Paramus
Edgewater	Park Ridge
Elmwood Park	Ramsey
Emerson	Ridgefield
Englewood	Ridgefield Park
Englewood Cliffs	Ridgewood
Fair Lawn	River Edge
Fairview	River Vale
Fort Lee	Rochelle Park
Franklin Lakes	Rockleigh
Garfield	Rutherford
Glen Rock	Saddle Brook
Hackensack	Saddle River
Harrington Park	South Hackensack
Hasbrouck Heights	Teaneck
Haworth	Tenafly
Hillside	Teterboro
Ho Ho Kus	Upper Saddle River
Leonia	Waldwick
Little Ferry	Wallington
Lodi	Washington Township
Lyndhurst	Westwood
Mahwah	Woodscliff Lake
Maywood	Woodridge
Midland Park	Wyckoff

Bergen County is one of the urban northeastern counties. It borders on New York State to the east, with Hudson County just below it and Passaic County to its west.

Bergen was initially settled as an agricultural community by the Bergen Dutch. The region played a critical role in the American Revolution. In fact, it was at the Bergen community of New Bridge that Washington saved his rag-tag army from being defeated by the British. The event inspired Thomas Paine's *American Crisis*. It was said that the Steuben house in Bergen saw more of the Revolution than did any other home in America.

Bergen is considered a bedroom community for New York City and some 62,000-72,000 county residents commute into the city.

Bergen is also unique among New Jersey counties in that it maintains so-called "blue laws," which forbid certain retail businesses from opening on Sunday. Shopping malls in Bergen, for instance, are shuttered on Sunday. Whether you think this is a good idea or not (and there are plenty of strong opinions on both sides), Bergen's "blue laws" make the county stand out.

But that doesn't mean there's nothing fun to do. Far from it. The county has some interesting places to go, and things to do in Bergen County range from environmental to history-oriented.

Amazing Fact: *Ever hear of Edwin H. Armstrong? If you've listened to the radio you have, because Armstrong invented FM radio. Determined to prove its worth, Armstrong erected, at his own expense, a tower in the Bergen County community of Alpine and from there initiated the first FM broadcasts. But, stymied by legal and FCC troubles, and almost out of money, the depressed genius killed himself in 1954.*

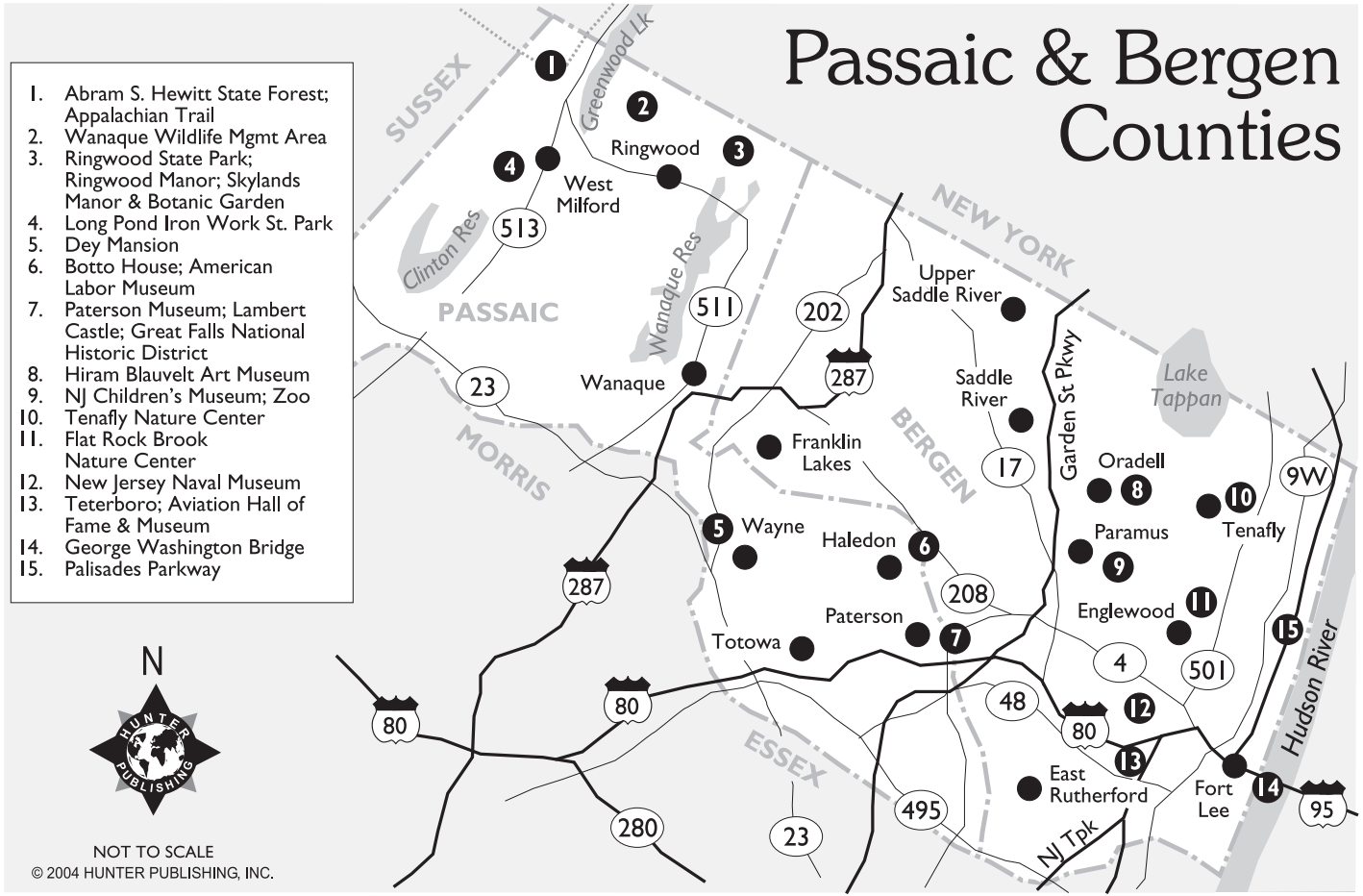
Best Bets

Aviation Hall of Fame and Museum of New Jersey (Teterboro Airport, Teterboro, ☎ 201-288-6344, Tuesday and Sunday, 10-4, www.njahof.org). Here at the airport in this tiny town (the airport, one of the busiest for private planes in the country, practically **is** the whole town) you'll find a homage to the important role that New Jersey has played in the history of aviation. The museum contains numerous flight/plane artifacts related to subjects such as space flight and female pilots. It also shows movies about aviation, covering everything from stunt flyers to the ill-fated *Hindenburg*. There is an old-fashioned propeller plane on display. But the neatest thing is that you can listen in to actual radio transmissions between the air traffic controllers in the tower and airplane pilots. This is a must for any aviation enthusiasts in the family.

New Jersey Children's Museum (599 Valley Health Plaza, Paramus, ☎ 201-262-5151, weekdays, 9-5, weekends, 10-6 from October 1-April 30; 10-5 from May 1-September 30; www.njcm.com). When the boardwalks are closed, the amusement parks quiet, it's raining like crazy and you must do something with your 10-year-old to get her to stop playing the drums on your pots, take her (or him) to this great place for kids. There are over 30 different exhibits here, ranging from explanations of animal senses to a fire truck that your kid can pretend to steer while ringing its bell. There are medical displays, a medieval castle, a prehistoric cave where your child can write his own cave message, a giant doll house, exhibits on Native Americans and their way of life, a giant sandbox, and a movable skeleton named Moveable Mike! A definite lifesaver for parents when it's "one of those days."

What's in a Name? *Do you know the origin of the name Paramus? The town's name apparently comes from an Indian word meaning "abundance of turkeys."*

Flat Rock Brook Nature Center (443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood, ☎ 201-567-1265, dawn to dusk, visitor's information open 9-5, Tuesday-Friday, 1-5, Saturday and Sunday, www.flatrockbrook.org). It


Passaic & Bergen Counties
1. Abram S. Hewitt State Forest; Appalachian Trail
2. Wanaque Wildlife Mgmt Area
3. Ringwood State Park; Ringwood Manor; Skylands Manor & Botanic Garden
4. Long Pond Iron Work St. Park
5. Dey Mansion
6. Botto House; American Labor Museum
7. Paterson Museum; Lambert Castle; Great Falls National Historic District
8. Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum
9. NJ Children's Museum; Zoo
10. Tenafly Nature Center
11. Flat Rock Brook Nature Center
12. New Jersey Naval Museum
13. Teterboro; Aviation Hall of Fame & Museum
14. George Washington Bridge
15. Palisades Parkway
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Wanaque Res
Wanaque
Upper Saddle River
Saddle River
Garden St Pkwy
Lake Tappan
Oradell
Paramus
Tenafly
Franklin Lakes
Wayne
Haledon
Paterson
Totowa
Englewood
East Rutherford
Fort Lee
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may be hard to believe, but at one time this entire area was part of a vast wilderness called the Palisades Forest. But then early settlers got out their axes, spit on their hands, and started to cut down the trees. The result is what you see today, or what we like to optimistically call "progress." But at the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, you can see one of the last existing remnants of the great Palisades Forest. Here, spread over 150 acres, is an incredible diversity of environments: woodlands, wetlands, quarry cliffs, and meadows. Over three miles of trails wind their way through this incredible natural area, which is proof that North Jersey is much more than asphalt.

Fort Lee Historic Park (Hudson Terrace, Fort Lee, ☎ 201-461-1776; park open daily, dawn-dusk; Visitor's Center open March-December, Wednesday-Sunday, 10-5; January-February, Saturday and Sunday, 10-5; the park is part of Palisades Interstate Park). It is a little-known historical fact that Fort Lee and the surrounding area played a critical role in the American Revolution. This park commemorates that. Several overlooks offer sensational views of the New York skyline, Hudson River, and other points.

The Visitor's Center here contains two floors of exhibits and audio-visual information about how Washington's bedraggled Colonial Army used Fort Lee to begin their retreat through New Jersey during the winter of 1776-77, when the flame of independence was just about extinguished. The video is quite compelling, and makes one realize how close we came to losing the war.

Fort Lee had been planned by Washington as a defense against the British controlling the Hudson River. But when the British chased the Americans out of New York, everything changed. Washington planned to evacuate Fort Lee in an orderly fashion in November, 1776, but the British sent men across the Hudson before that could happen. Washington had to immediately retreat before he was cut off. In the hasty withdrawal that followed, materials and supplies were left behind. Thus began a period when the American bid for independence looked very shaky. That's what makes a visit here so interesting; Fort Lee doesn't honor a victory and glory, but a defeat and near-disaster. Sometimes it's good to see the other side.

The park also frequently offers special programs. Call for details.

Tenafly Nature Center (313 Hudson Avenue, Tenafly, ☎ 201-568-6093; trails are open from dawn to dusk daily, Visitors Center is open 9 to 5, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 to 5 on Sunday, and 1 to 5 on Monday; www.tenaflynaturecenter.org). Another important and interesting nature center, this fascinating place encompasses 50 acres – or nearly 400 when combined with the adjacent Lost Brook Preserve – with over five miles of walking trails and a very pretty pond. The visitor's center has a variety of displays and activities, such as a live ani-

mal exhibit with snakes and such. The Tenafly Nature Center is a popular place for birders, particularly during the spring and fall migration season, when our feathered friends pack their suitcases and begin the long flight to warmer quarters.

Bergen County Zoological Park (216 Forest Avenue, Paramus, ☎ 201-262-3771, 10-4:30, www.co.bergen.nj.us/parks). This facility is run by the county – and they do a darn good job of it! Located in Van Saun County Park, the zoo is immaculate, with some of the prettiest landscaping you'll ever see. Of course, the big attraction in any zoo is the animals, and they've got some exceptional ones here, including buffaloes, mountain lions, boa constrictors, and many others. But, knowing how kids are, they'll skip the more exotic animals and go right for the Farmyard section, which has the usual barnyard animals like pigs and chickens.

What is it about zoos and miniature train rides? Many zoos seem to have them, and they're always fun. This zoo is no exception; their miniature train is a replica of an 1866 locomotive.

New Jersey Naval Museum (78 River Street, Hackensack, ☎ 201-342-3268, Saturday-Sunday, 10-4, www.njnm.com). It's open only on the weekends, but don't let that stop you from visiting this fascinating and relatively unknown place. Its main attraction is the 312-foot **USS *Ling***, a diesel-electric submarine used during World War II. You can tour the ship and marvel at the sardine-like compactness of everything. Other exhibits include material on submarine history, actual sand from Iwo Jima, a Navy SEAL vehicle, a patrol boat of the type used in Vietnam, and much more.

Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum (705 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, ☎ 201-261-0012, Wednesday and Friday, 10-4, Saturday-Sunday, 2-5, www.blauveltmuseum.com). This museum is well worth a visit. It's devoted exclusively to wildlife art and the conservation of wildlife. Founded in 1957 by Blauvelt, an early conservationist, the museum boasts an impressive collection of canvases. Among the artists represented are John James Audubon and Carl Rungus. The museum itself is set in an 1893 shingle and turret-style carriage house. Call first to make certain it's open, and, if you're in the area, don't miss it. Some of the paintings are quite striking.

Restaurants

America Bar & Grill (eclectic American, 115 County Road, Tenafly, ☎ 201-227-1200).

Arirang House (Korean, 235 Paterson Avenue, East Rutherford, ☎ 201-933-5067). Korean cuisine at reasonable prices.

Azucar (Cuban, 10 Dempsey Avenue, Edgewater, ☎ 201-886-0747). Cuban cuisine in an area where you might not expect to find it.

Bisque (seafood, 144 Highway 4 East, Paramus, ☎ 201-556-1530).

Café Italiano (Italian, 14 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, ☎ 201-461-5041).

Café Matisse (French/American, 167 Park Avenue, Rutherford, ☎ 201-935-2995).

Café Panache (French, 130 E. Main Street, Ramsey, ☎ 201-934-0030).

Chez Dominique (French, 4 Bedford Avenue, Bergenfield, ☎ 201-384-7637).

The Chef's Table (French, 754 Franklin Avenue, Franklin Square Shopping Center, Franklin Lakes, ☎ 201-891-6644).

Christino's, A Tuscan Bistro (Italian, 145 Dean Drive, Clinton Inn Hotel, Tenafly, ☎ 201-567-4800). The large wine list is a feature here.

Esty Street (American, 86 Spring Valley Road, Park Ridge, ☎ 201-307-1515). An outstanding wine list to go with the outstanding food.

Fulton Crab House (seafood, 697 Anderson Avenue, Cliffside Park, ☎ 201-945-2347). Over 30 different varieties of fresh fish.

Good Times (pasta/seafood/beef, 39-10 Broadway, Highway 4 East, Fair Lawn, ☎ 201-791-1936).

Il Mulino (Italian, 132 Veterans Plaza, Dumont, ☎ 201-384-7767).

Legal Sea Foods (seafood, One Garden State Plaza, Paramus, ☎ 201-843-8483). The one New Jersey location of this popular New England chain.

Madeleine's Petite Paris (French, 416 Tappan Road, Northvale, ☎ 201-767-0063).

Marcello's at the Ho-Ho-Kus Inn (Continental/Italian, 1 E. Franklin Turnpike, Ho Ho Kus, ☎ 201-445-4115). Great food in a wonderful old setting.

Miyoshi (Japanese, 21 Mercer Street, Hackensack, ☎ 201-489-0007). Japanese cuisine at moderate prices.

Osteria Del Gusto (Italian, 555 Anderson Avenue, Cliffside Park, ☎ 201-941-7876).

Park & Orchard (eclectic, 240 Hackensack Street, East Rutherford, ☎ 201-939-9292).

Radicchio (Italian, 32 Franklin Avenue, Ridgewood, ☎ 201-670-7311).

Raku (Japanese, 301 Center Avenue, Westwood, ☎ 201-263-9500). This establishment offers Japanese food with a French accent.

Rebecca's (Cuban/Caribbean, 236 Old River Road, Edgewater, ☎ 201-313-3537).

The Restaurant (Continental/eclectic, 160 Prospect Avenue, Hackensack, ☎ 201-678-1100).

River Palm Terrace (steak, 1416 River Road, Edgewater, ☎ 201-224-2013).

Ruga (American, 4 Barbara Lane, Oakland, ☎ 201-337-0813).

Saddle River Inn (French/Continental, 2 Barnstable Court, Saddle River, ☎ 201-825-4016).

Saints Café (International, 827 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, ☎ 201-833-1160).

Smoke Chophouse & Cigar Emporium (steak, 36 Engle Street, Englewood, ☎ 201-541-8530). The classic combination: steakhouse-type food with cigars.

The Sea Shack (Continental seafood, 293 Polifly Road, Hackensack, ☎ 201-489-7232).

Sonoma Grill (Contemporary American, 64 Hoboken Road, East Rutherford, ☎ 201-507-8989).

South City Grille (seafood, 55 Highway 17 South, Rochelle Park, ☎ 201-845-3737).

Stony Hill Inn (Italian/Continental, 231 Polifly Road, Hackensack, ☎ 201-342-4085). An inn from the early years of the 19th century only enhances this fine dining experience.

Sylvester's (Italian-American, 307 Terrace Avenue, Hasbrouck Heights, ☎ 201-288-2220).

Teggiano Ristorante (Italian, 310 Huyler Street, Hackensack, ☎ 201-487-3884).

Trio (Russian/European, 565 George Road, Cliffside Park, ☎ 201-313-3440). A very unusual blend of cuisines makes for an interesting experience.

28 Oak Street (American, 28 Oak Street, Ridgewood, ☎ 201-689-7313).

Villa Amalfi (Italian/Continental, 793 Palisade Avenue, Cliffside Park, ☎ 201-886-8626).

Village Green (American, 36 Prospect Street, Ridgewood, ☎ 201-445-2914).

Zarole (Continental/American, 20 E. Ridgewood Avenue, Ridgewood, ☎ 201-670-5701).

Accommodations

East Rutherford

Fairfield Inn By Marriott (850 Paterson Plank Road, ☎ 201-507-5222).

Homestead Guest Studios (300 Highway 3 East, ☎ 201-939-8866).

Sheraton Meadowlands (2 Meadowlands Plaza, ☎ 201-896-0500).

Englewood

Radisson Hotel Englewood (401 S. Van Brunt Street, ☎ 201-871-2020).

Fair Lawn

Amerisuites (41-01 Broadway, Highway 4 West, ☎ 201-475-3888).

Fort Lee

Best Western Fort Lee (2300 Highway 4 West, ☎ 201-461-7000).

Hackensack

Best Western Oritani Hotel (414 Hackensack Avenue, ☎ 201-488-8900).

Hasbrouck Heights

Hilton Hasbrouck Heights (650 Terrace Avenue, ☎ 201-288-6100).
Holiday Inn Meadowlands Area (283 Highway 17 South, ☎ 201-288-9600).

Lyndhurst

Quality Inn - Meadowlands (10 Polito Avenue, ☎ 201-933-9800).

Mahwah

Courtyard By Marriott (140 Highway 17 South, ☎ 201-529-5200).
Ramada Inn (180 Highway 17 South, ☎ 201-529-5880).

Paramus

Holiday Inn Express (50 Highway 17 North, ☎ 201-843-5400).

Park Ridge

Park Ridge Marriott Hotel (300 Brae Boulevard, ☎ 201-307-0800).

Ridgefield Park

Hampton Inn-Meadowlands (100 Highway 46 East, ☎ 201-641-2900).

Shopping

Antiques

Brownstone Mill Antiques Center (11 Patterson Avenue, Midland Park, ☎ 201-445-3074).

Flea Markets

Meadowlands Marketplace (Parking lot 17, Meadowlands Sports Complex, East Rutherford, ☎ 201-935-5474).

Malls (Note: All Paramus malls are closed on Sunday

Bergen Mall (Highway 4 & Paramus Avenue, Paramus, ☎ 201-845-4050).
The Fashion Center (Highway 17 & Ridgewood Avenue, Paramus, ☎ 201-444-9050).
Garden State Plaza (Highways 4 & 17, Paramus, ☎ 201-843-2404).
Mall at IV (275 Highway 4 West, Paramus, ☎ 201-488-0148).
Paramus Park Shopping Center (700 Paramus Park, ☎ 201-261-8000).
Riverside Square (1 Riverside Square, Hackensack, ☎ 201-489-2212).
Mitsuva Marketplace (595 River Road, Edgewater, ☎ 201-941-9113).

Passaic County

Passaic County Towns	
Bloomingdale	Pompton Lakes
Clifton	Prospect Park
Haledon	Ringwood
Hawthorne	Totowa
Little Falls	Wanaque
North Haledon	Wayne Township
Passaic	West Milford Township
Paterson	West Paterson

Passaic is the strangest-shaped county in the entire state. Shaped like an hourglass, Passaic has an interesting and a sometimes conflicting history. It was in Passaic County, in the city of Paterson, that the United States of America took the first steps toward becoming a global industrial powerhouse with the creation of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures, the brainchild of Alexander Hamilton. Yet it was also in Passaic County, at the Botto House in Haledon, that the fledgling American labor movement received one of its biggest boosts with the actions of workers in the great Paterson Silk Strike of 1913.

A popular conception of Passaic is one of urban sprawl gone amuck – highways, buildings, pollution, traffic jams, and people all smashed together in a concrete hell. Yet Passaic contains the natural beauty of the state's official botanical garden, at Skylands. There's natural beauty as well in the state parks at Ringwood and Long Pond. There's even an elemental, wild natural beauty in Paterson's thundering Great Falls. It's ironic that something so naturally attractive can be the power behind the industrial might of a nation.

But that's Passaic County for you. Just when you think you've got it figured out, it surprises you.

Best Bets

Great Falls National Historic District (McBride Avenue Extension & Spruce Street, Great Falls Visitor Center, Paterson, ☎ 973-225-0826, www.patersongreatfalls.com). It was at this spot that Alexander Hamilton decided to use the power of the Passaic Falls and Passaic River to develop American industry in the 1790s. Hamilton was a key figure in the development of the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures (S.U.M.), which was meant to be the showcase of American industry and an answer to the industrial might of Europe. Unlike others, such as Thomas Jefferson, who felt that agriculture was the best course for the new country, Hamilton felt that industry was the path to follow.

Hamilton was right in his big picture thinking, but wrong immediately. Despite his efforts to help keep Paterson a viable entity, the S.U.M. failed. But as we all know, the US developed into an industrial power, and Paterson succeeded as a manufacturing giant. In fact, the town had several rebirths during the 19th and 20th centuries – at one time becoming the silk-producing capital of America. Sadly, Hamilton didn't live to see any of it.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford came to Paterson and declared the 199-acre Great Falls/S.U.M. site to be a National Historic Landmark. It contains factories and examples of 18th- , 19th- and 20th-century waterpower systems, including a three-tiered water raceway system.

It is important to understand that this historic district is most definitely a work in progress. You're not going to find numerous museums, places to eat, and tons of historical interpretation. Instead, most of the activity right now is limited to the Great Falls Visitor Center, which is located across the street from the waterfalls in a converted gas station. There is a guided tour that explains the district's history, and, of course, the Great Falls themselves, 77 feet of waterpower – still pretty impressive. But most of what you learn is going to be on your own.

> ❦ ***Samuel Colt**, inventor of the gun that "won the West," got his start in Paterson at the S.U.M. (see above). It seems that in the 1830s, Colt started a gun factory in Paterson to produce his revolutionary multiple-shot revolver. But he was too far ahead of everybody else in his thinking and design, and he was out of business by 1841. He then went to Hartford, Connecticut, where luck was with him and he was more successful in selling his famous revolver and other multiple-shot weapons.*

Lambert Castle (3 Valley Road, Garret Mountain Reservation, Paterson, ☎ 973-247-0085, Wednesday-Sunday, 1-4, www.lambertcastle.com). This was, at one time, somebody's house. This castle – and "castle" accurately describes it – used to be the home of Catholina Lambert, who was the biggest of all the silk manufacturers located in Paterson in the latter part of the 19th and early 20th century. The home was built in 1892 as opulently and extravagantly as anything constructed by rich men in the Gilded Age. Lambert lived here, with all his wealth and power, until the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913 and a corresponding decline in America's silk fortunes did him in. But he still managed to keep this incredible house until his death. Think medieval battles with longbow archers or guys in suits of armor clanking around, and you get the general drift.

The house was eventually acquired by the county in the 1920s. In the mid-1990s the castle was closed and extensively rehabilitated. Only recently was it reopened, and it's definitely worth visiting, if for nothing else than the incredible view of Paterson below from its front yard.

Inside you'll find three floors, each with a different theme. On the first floor, you take a guided tour through various rooms with period furnishings. The second floor is devoted to a permanent art collection, while the third contains changing exhibits presented by the Passaic County Historical Society.

Botto House/American Labor Museum (83 Norwood Street, Haledon, ☎ 973-595-7953, Wednesday-Saturday, 1-4). Like Lambert Castle, this also used to be a private home. But there is a vast difference in both philosophy and style between the opulent castle and this modest middle-class residence. During the brutal Paterson Silk Strike of 1913, this was the rallying point for thousands of idle workers. They sat on the front lawn and listened to speeches from organizers in the fledgling labor movement. Some of the pictures on the walls are quite remarkable, showing the sea of humanity gathered around the house at that time.

Now the house is divided between depicting the history of that ground-breaking strike, and portraying the struggles of the organized labor movement in America. It will not take you too long to go through this, but it is a fascinating journey.

Dey Mansion (199 Totowa Road, Preakness Valley Park, Wayne, ☎ 973-696-1776; Wednesday-Friday, 1-4, Saturday-Sunday, 10-12, 1-4). If George Washington really did sleep around, then New Jersey was one of the places where he often rested his head. His presence is found in numerous places in the Garden State, such as Rockingham and Morristown. Another spot is the Dirck Dey Mansion. It was in 1780 that Dey's son Theunis offered the mansion to Washington as his headquarters. The general accepted, and used it in the months of July, October and November. According to legend, it was also the Dey house that was offered to Washington as a hideout after a British plot to kidnap him was discovered. Today, the mansion is open limited hours, and can be toured.

Skylands Botanical Garden & Skylands Manor (Morris Road, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood, ☎ 973-962-7031, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Located in Ringwood State Park, these gardens are among the prettiest in the state – and the least known. In the middle of the 19th century, this estate was assembled by Francis Lynde Stetson and dubbed "Skylands." Eventually, it was sold in the 1920s to Clarence McKenzie Lewis. Stetson's goal was to turn Skylands into a botanical showplace. So, over a period of several

decades, he collected thousands of plant specimens from all over the world.

How well he succeeded can be seen at the Skylands Botanical Garden, one of the most beautiful spots you'll ever encounter. The gardens contain flowering trees from around the world. The gardens themselves are 96 acres of color, with different plant types blooming throughout the year (except in the dead of winter, but there's a Winter Garden then). Sections of the gardens bear descriptive names that enable you to figure out their theme, such as Crab Apple Vista, Magnolia Walk, the Lilac Gardens, and the Annual Garden. Although it's most gorgeous in spring, any time of year is perfect for visiting.

Skylands Manor is one of two old-time manor houses at Ringwood State Park. Ringwood Manor is the other (see below). Skylands Manor was designed in the 1920s in the English Jacobean style for Lewis. Its weather-beaten stone exterior enables it to blend into the surrounding landscape. With 44 rooms, Skylands Manor is one of the largest houses of this type you can visit. It is available to be toured only one Sunday per month from March through November. Call ahead for dates and times.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *The Skylands Botanical Garden bears two unique distinctions. The first is that in 1984, then-Governor Tom Kean designated it as the state's official botanical garden. The second is that this was the first property purchased under the state's Green Acres program, which has saved many acres of greenery from being paved over.*

Ringwood Manor (Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood State Park, Ringwood, ☎ 973-962-7031, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Just like the Pine Barrens (see page 36), but lasting for many more years, Ringwood was a prime American iron-producing center. It produced munitions for every major armed conflict for over 150 years – from the French and Indian War right up to World War I.

During the American Revolution, the ironmaster of Ringwood, Robert Erskine, served as the surveyor-general and geographer of the Continental Army. He produced about 300 much-needed maps for Washington. The existing mansion at Ringwood reflects the period from the mid-1800s up to the mid-1900s, when the Hewitt family ran Ringwood.

Cooper Hewitt, the head of the Hewitt family, is reported to have accumulated the sixth-largest personal fortune in America, and from the opulent home, furnishings and paintings, there is no reason to doubt it. But the real historical interest here is generated by Peter Cooper. As the home of Cooper, this is the place where the man who

founded Cooper Union and then the Greenback Party came up with those interesting ideas. Age didn't slow Cooper down either; he ran for President of the US when he was 85.

The house itself has over a dozen rooms open, and is filled with all the trappings of wealth from the mid-19th century, including artwork, wooden stairways made of the finest materials, and opulent chandeliers.

This is a terrific place to learn about New Jersey history and see a great house!

Ringwood State Park (1304 Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood, ☎ 973-962-7031, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). The park is popular with fishermen, who ply the Ringwood River for trout. Fishing is also allowed in Shepherd Lake, as is swimming and boating. Other activities at Ringwood include hiking, boating, picnicking, horseback riding, biking, and cross-country skiing.

Paterson Museum (2 Market Street, Thomas Rogers Locomotive Shop, Paterson, ☎ 973-881-3874, Tuesday-Friday, 10-4, Saturday-Sunday, 1-4). Many people don't know Paterson's fascinating industrial history. Here you can find it. Although you have to be a real dyed-in-the-wool history buff to appreciate all this, if you give it a chance you're almost guaranteed to become engrossed in the story.

The museum contains a variety of displays, most of which have something to do with Paterson's unique history. There is an extensive mineral collection, the hulls of John Holland's first submarines, a collection of Paterson-made firearms (including some rare Colt guns), silk-processing machinery from the Silk Era in Paterson, and much more.

Long Pond Iron Works State Park (Lake Turnpike/Route 511, West Milford Township, ☎ 973-962-7031, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This former iron-working community is an example of what someday might be a superior state park. Long Pond used to be a prosperous iron-workers' town. It was founded in 1766 by a German named Peter Hasenclever. By the mid-19th century it was going great guns, and the village of Hewitt grew up around Long Pond. However, the conversion of the iron industry to Pennsylvania coal darkened the furnaces at Long Pond, as it did at many other iron-working sites.

Eventually the state got possession of the property with the idea of turning it into a park. With the seemingly unrelenting budget problems going on in Trenton, it's been hard to find money for the planned restoration of the iron village, and things have proceeded slowly. So far, one waterwheel has been reconstructed, as well as the community store, which has been turned into a museum. If the budget fairy

drops a big sack of money on state government, future plans call for additional restoration work.

Even though this is a work in progress, Long Pond is still an enjoyable destination. Outdoor activities include boating, hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding, fishing (Monksville Reservoir in the park is particularly known for muskellunge, walleye, bass and trout) and cross-country skiing.

Restaurants

Belvedere (Italian, 247 Piaget Avenue, Clifton, ☎ 973-772-5060).

Berta's Chateau (Italian, 7 Grove Street, Wanaque, ☎ 973-835-0992).

Buco (Italian, 953 Allwood Road, Clifton, ☎ 973-779-3500).

Chengdu 46 (Szechuan, 1105 Highway 46 East, Clifton, ☎ 973-777-8855).

Cortina Ristorante (Italian, 118 Berkshire Avenue, Paterson, ☎ 973-942-1750).

Dish (eclectic American, 40 Brighton Avenue, Passaic, ☎ 973-773-9335).

Formerly the French Hill Inn (American, 344 French Hill Road, Wayne, ☎ 973-696-9440).

Il Capo (Continental, 5 Sicomac Road, High Mountain Plaza, North Haledon, ☎ 973-423-4006).

Lu Nello's (Italian, 331 Union Boulevard, Totowa, ☎ 973-790-1410).

Accommodations

Clifton

Wesley Inn (265 Route 3 East, ☎ 973-778-6500).

Totowa

Holiday Inn (1 Highway 46 West, ☎ 973-785-9000).

Wayne

Holiday Inn (Highway 46 East/Service Road, ☎ 973-256-7000).

Wellesley Inn (1850 Highway 23 & Ratzer Road, ☎ 973-696-8050).

Shopping

Malls

Wayne Towne Center (Highway 23, Wayne, ☎ 973-785-3150).

Willowbrook Mall (1400 Willowbrook Mall, Wayne, ☎ 973-785-1616).

Essex County

Essex County Towns	
Belleville	Millburn
Bloomfield	Montclair
Caldwell	Newark
Cedar Grove	North Caldwell
East Orange	Nutley
Essex Fells	Orange Township
Fairfield	Roseland
Glen Ridge	South Orange Village
Irvington	Verona
Livingston	West Caldwell
Maplewood	West Orange

Another of the urban Northeast counties, Essex County is also one of the oldest counties in the state. It began in 1666, when a group of settlers from Connecticut came to establish what became Newark. The group bought the land for $800, and Essex County was on its way.

Essex is one of modern New Jersey's original four counties. (The others? Bergen, Middlesex, and Monmouth.) For a time the county was an industrial giant. Today it's New Jersey's second-most populous county.

Essex is not usually thought of as an historical county, but that just goes to show you how misleading things can sometimes be. It's the birthplace of the only US President to serve two non-consecutive terms, was the home of the most amazing inventor the world has ever seen, and is the current home of the New Jersey Historical Society. As far as sports go, Essex was the home of the legendary Newark Bears in baseball.

But Essex is far more than just history. It contains a zoo, several wonderful natural areas, and a magnificent museum.

Best Bets

Grover Cleveland Birthplace (207 Bloomfield Avenue, North Caldwell, ☎ 973-226-0001; Wednesday, Friday, 9 to 6, Saturday, 9 to 5, and Sunday, 1 to 6). This is the birthplace of the only US President born in New Jersey, as well as the only President to serve two non-consecutive terms in the White House. Grover Cleveland was the 22nd President and the 24th. Even though he lived here for only a few years after he was first born, the site is filled with a veritable smorgasbord of Cleveland artifacts and memorabilia that explains all you need to know about "Grover the Good." Included among the exhibits is an actual piece of cake from when Cleveland was married while he was President, but it's not something that Betty Crocker would want to take credit for.

Edison National Historic Site/Glenmont (Main Street & Lakeside Avenues, West Orange, ☎ 973-736-0550, www.nps.gov/edis). Here, along with Menlo Park, is where Thomas Edison created many of the inventions that changed modern life, like the phonograph, the motion picture camera, and the storage battery. You can tour some of the facility, see some of the inventions, and check out the exhibits. Also on the grounds is a reproduction of the Black Maria, the world's first indoor movie studio.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Glenmont is open only limited days and hours. You need to purchase tickets at the laboratory complex, and often on busy days the tickets sell out fast. A trip to the laboratory complex does not necessarily guarantee that you'll get into Glenmont.*

After you see where Edison worked, take a tour of Glenmont, his Queen Anne-style mansion-home, in nearby Llewellyn Park. The house has the original furnishings, and is the place where Edison thought up many of his inventions. The house has lots of deep rich woodwork, Oriental rugs, and stained-glass windows. It also has an interesting display on the front porch showing pictures of Edison and his friends, such as Henry Ford, "roughing it" in the wilderness by going camping – while wearing formal business suits. Edison and his wife rest in two backyard graves.

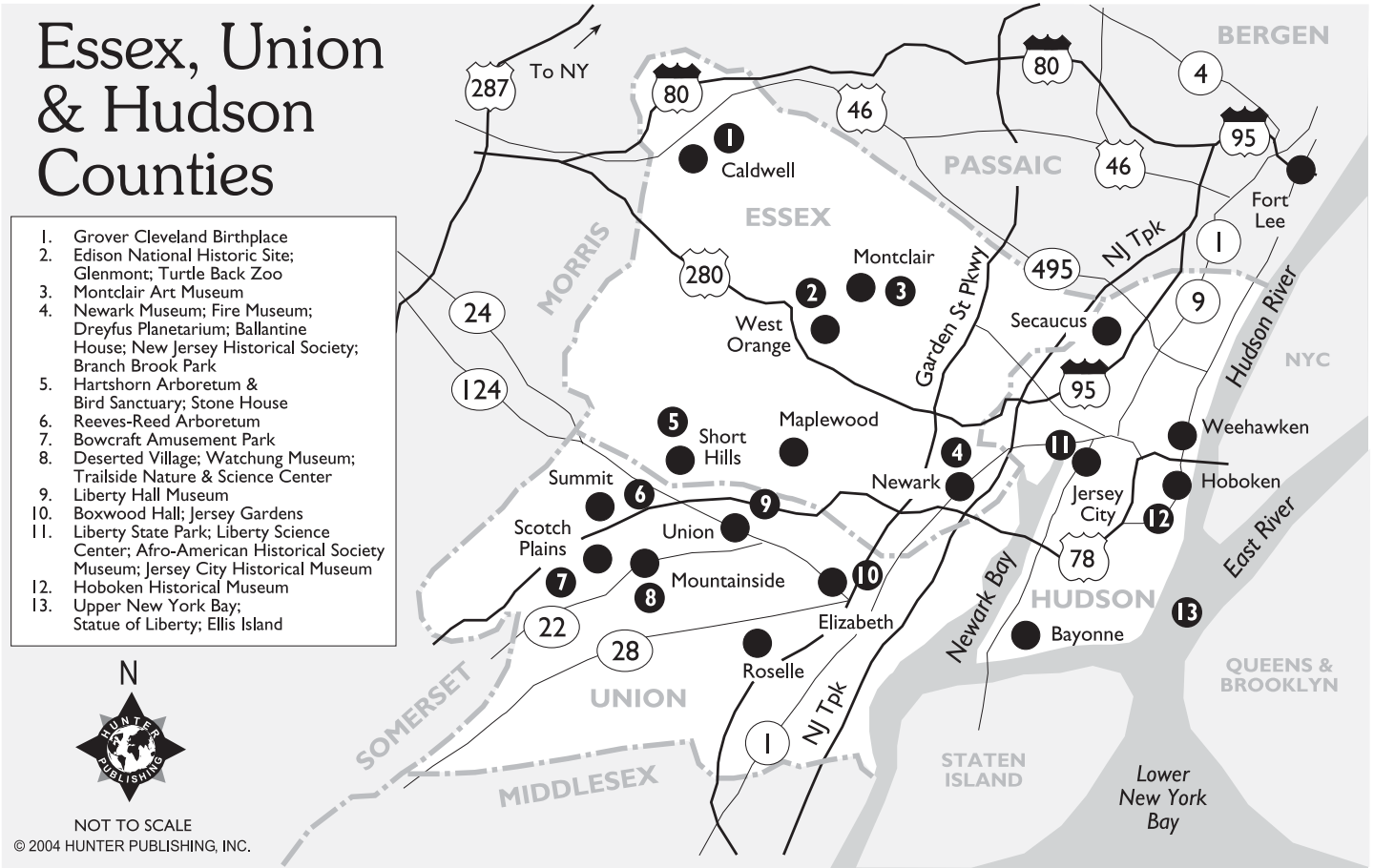
❖ ***Tip:*** *Both Glenmont and Edison's laboratory were recently closed for major rehabilitation and repairs. They may be open again by the time of your visit, but check in advance.*

Newark Museum (49 Washington Street, Newark, ☎ 973-596-6550; Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5; www.newarkmuseum.org). This is a world-class museum of the caliber that you'd expect to find in New York or Philadelphia. The museum, considered one of the most beautiful in the country, is a four-building structure that contains a wealth of exhibits, including paintings, sculpture, cultural artifacts, and a firehouse. There are also numerous artifacts from other countries, such as China and Korea. The Native American exhibit contains one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of artifacts ever seen. Children will enjoy the one-room schoolhouse and the **Fire Museum**.

Also on the site is the **Dreyfus Planetarium**, which offers weekend and holiday programs, so when the kids get bored looking at all the other stuff, you can bribe them with this cool place. But to really get the kids to come here, tell them that there is a **zoo** on the premises, with over 100 animals! Some of the animals are injured and cannot be returned to the wild, so the zoo provides a home for them. We're not talking chickens or ducks here, but some unusual creatures, like a boa constrictor and a chuckwalla. Also of interest is the newly

Essex, Union & Hudson Counties

1. Grover Cleveland Birthplace
2. Edison National Historic Site; Glenmont; Turtle Back Zoo
3. Montclair Art Museum
4. Newark Museum; Fire Museum; Dreyfus Planetarium; Ballantine House; New Jersey Historical Society; Branch Brook Park
5. Hartshorn Arboretum & Bird Sanctuary; Stone House
6. Reeves-Reed Arboretum
7. Bowcraft Amusement Park
8. Deserted Village; Watchung Museum; Trailside Nature & Science Center
9. Liberty Hall Museum
10. Boxwood Hall; Jersey Gardens
11. Liberty State Park; Liberty Science Center; Afro-American Historical Society Museum; Jersey City Historical Museum
12. Hoboken Historical Museum
13. Upper New York Bay; Statue of Liberty; Ellis Island



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NOT TO SCALE

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restored **Ballantine House** (yes, the beer family), which houses the **Decorative Arts Wing** of the museum.

The museum itself completed a restoration several years ago, and is now more breathtaking than ever. This is a true gem, and one not a lot of people know about.

Turtle Back Zoo (560 Northfield Avenue/County Road 508 on South Mountain Reservation, West Orange, ☎ 973-731-5800; Monday-Saturday, 10-4:30, Sunday, 11-5:30; www.turtlebackzoo.com). Turtle Back Zoo is a fun place, with enough animals to assure that you're not just looking at some squirrels (and they're not looking back at you). Located in South Mountain Reservation, Turtle Back Zoo specializes in animals native to New Jersey. There are over 200 different species here – 500 animals in all.

The 18 acres are filled with animals like wolves, cougars, penguins, and many more. Be sure to take the train ride around the zoo. It's a great way to get your bearings. Another excellent zoo that is run by a New Jersey county. And when you're done here, there are plenty more things to do in **South Mountain Reservation**.

> ***What's in a Name?*** *Turtle Back Zoo was named after a rock formation resembling the back of a turtle. That group of rocks can still be seen today, in the Turtle Back Rock picnic area.*

Montclair Art Museum (3 South Mountain Avenue, Montclair, ☎ 973-746-5555; Tuesday, Sunday, 11-5; www.montclair-art.com). Now here's something you don't see every day – a magnificent art museum that's not in a big city. You know you're in for something special when you first see the museum building, which is all stone, and pillars and impressive. You half-expect to see some Greek god walk out of it hurling thunderbolts. This museum has some extraordinary paintings and sculpture, including an exhibit of American Indian artwork with plenty of attention paid to the Plains and Southwest Indians. There is also a fabulous section containing artwork that depicts the early days of Montclair. While the museum and exhibits were recently undergoing some changes, artists represented included Edward Hopper and George Inness. This place is a relative secret, but now you know about it!

Cora Hartshorn Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary (324 Forest Drive South, Short Hills, ☎ 973-376-3587, www.hartshornarboretum.com). What a beautiful place. If you're into nature, these 16-plus acres of natural woodlands with several miles of walking/hiking/observation trails can't be beat. As the name suggests, the emphasis here is on our feathered friends, but plants run a close second. The arboretum has one of the best collections of wildflowers anywhere in New Jer-

sey. It was founded in the 1920s by the daughter of the founder of Short Hills – Cora Hartshorn. Don't miss **Stone House**, a small museum built from traprock and oak. It contains various nature exhibits, a working beehive, and some small animals.

❖ ***Tip:*** *School kids frequently visit Stone House on field trips. When they do, it is not available to the general public. Call ahead if you intend to visit the museum.*

New Jersey Historical Society (52 Park Place, Newark, ☎ 973-596-8500, Tuesday, Saturday 10-5, www.jerseyhistory.org). This isn't a full-day destination. It isn't even for everybody in the family, just the historically minded. But, if you're into New Jersey history, and you're in the area, then this might well be worth taking a look at. The society has all manner of historical information about New Jersey. Three entire floors contain exhibits. It also has rotating exhibits that explore different aspects of New Jersey life. All are utterly fascinating. In addition, it offers talks/lectures/presentations on specific areas of interest. We're not talking about dusty old history books either, but photographs, paintings, furniture, and more.

Of course, the big thing here is the society's permanent holdings, which are quite massive and cover over 350 years of history in New Jersey. Serious historians, history-lovers, and authors frequent the society, but that still doesn't mean that it's off-limits to a casual visit. The people here love to share Garden State history with others.

Branch Brook Park (Bloomfield Avenue/County Road 506 to Lake Street, Newark, ☎ 973-643-1611, www.branchbrookpark.org). Branch Brook Park isn't just any county park. This was the first county park in America, and the obvious care and careful planning that went into the facility can be seen today in the way the walking paths are bisected by lakes and other bodies of water that are dotted throughout the area.

Branch Brook is famous for its display of over 3,000 Japanese cherry trees. When they bloom, which is usually by mid-April, the view is spectacular – a true reminder that the renewal of life has triumphed over the death of winter. As you might imagine, this occurrence is well-attended, so plan accordingly. If you enjoy the Washington DC cherry blossoms, you'll like this as well.

Restaurants

American Fare (American, 175 Maplewood Avenue, Maplewood, ☎ 973-763-4005). American food served with a flair.

Appian Way (Italian, 619 Langdon Street, Orange, ☎ 973-678-0313).

Bacchus Chophouse & Wine Bar (steak, 318 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, ☎ 973-439-3901).

Basilico (Italian, 324 Millburn Avenue, Millburn, ☎ 973-379-7020).

Blue Sky Café (American, 400 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, ☎ 732-746-2553). For those who want casual yet fine dining.

Brasilia (Brazilian, 132 Ferry Street, Newark, ☎ 973-465-1227). Want a taste of Brazil, and don't want to go all the way there? This eatery fits the bill nicely.

Bruschetta (Italian, 292 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, ☎ 973-227-6164).

Carriage House at the Paper Mill Playhouse (American, Brookside Drive, Millburn, ☎ 973-379-2420). Enjoy a great meal here before and after play performances.

Corso 98 (Italian, 98 Walnut Street, Montclair, Montclair, ☎ 973-746-0789). Unusual Italian cuisine.

Déjà Vu (Thai/French, 399 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, ☎ 973-233-1126). A unique combination of fine foods.

Don Pepe (Spanish, 844 Highway 21, Newark, ☎ 973-623-4662).

Epernay (French, 6 Park Street, Montclair, ☎ 973-783-0477).

Formia (Italian, 418 Broad Street, Bloomfield, ☎ 973-748-8080).

The Highlawn Pavilion (Continental, Eagle Rock Reservation, West Orange, ☎ 973-731-3463). After you've finished oohing over the food, you can aah over the great view of Manhattan's skyline.

Il Tulipano (Italian/Continental, 1131 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, ☎ 973-256-9300).

Jocelyne's (French, 168 Maplewood Avenue, Maplewood, ☎ 973-763-4460).

Lilac (French, 194-196 Essex Street, Millburn, ☎ 973-564-9600).

Maize (American, 50 Park Place, The Robert Treat Hotel, Newark, ☎ 973-639-1200).

The Manor (American/Continental, 11 Prospect Avenue, West Orange, ☎ 973-731-2360). Their *vino* selection has won an award.

Mexicali Rose (Mexican/Southwestern, 10 Park Street, Montclair, ☎ 973-746-9005).

Nero's Grille (American, 618 S. Livingston Avenue, Livingston, ☎ 973-994-1410).

Riga, An Italian Trattoria (Italian, 690 Highway 46 East, Fairfield, ☎ 973-882-1111).

Savoy Grill (American, 60 Park Place, Newark, ☎ 973-286-1700).

Scuttlebutts Pub (American, 400 Centre Street, Nutley, ☎ 973-661-2026).

Seabra's Rodizio (Brazilian, 1034 McCarter Highway, Newark, ☎ 973-622-6221). A great place for uncommon cuisine.

7 Hills Restaurant (Italian/American, 88 Washington Street, Bloomfield, ☎ 973-743-5331).

Sinclaire's North Shore Grille & Market (seafood, 279 Millburn Avenue, Millburn, ☎ 973-379-2232).

Taste of Asia (Malaysian, 706 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, ☎ 973-744-3525). Malaysian food in Montclair? To everyone's great delight, it's true.

The Terrace Restaurant (American, 41 JFK Parkway, the Short Hills Hilton, Short Hills, ☎ 973-379-0100). Serves innovative American food.

Thai Chef (Thai, 664 Bloomfield Avenue, Montclair, ☎ 973-783-4994).

Theater Square Grill (American, One Centre Street, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, ☎ 973-642-1226).
28 (American, 28 Church Street, Montclair, ☎ 973-744-9263).

Accommodations

Fairfield

Best Western Fairfield Executive Inn (216-234 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-575-7700).
Hampton Inn & Suites (118-124 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-575-5777).
Meadowlands Plaza Hotel (286 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-227-4333).
Radisson Hotel & Suites (690 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-227-9200).
Ramada Inn (38 Two Bridges Road, ☎ 973-575-1742).

Newark

Airport Marriott (Newark International Airport, ☎ 973-623-0006).
Courtyard By Marriott (600 Highway 1 & 9 South, ☎ 973-643-8500).
Days Inn-Newark Airport (450 Highway 1 South, ☎ 973-242-0900).
Hilton Gateway (Raymond Boulevard, ☎ 973-622-5000).
Holiday Inn-North (160 Frontage Road, ☎ 973-589-1000).
Howard Johnson Hotel (20 Frontage Road, ☎ 973-344-1500).
Ramada Inn (550 Highway 1 & 9 South, ☎ 973-824-4000).
Sheraton Hotel-Newark Airport (128 Frontage Road, ☎ 973-690-5500).

Shopping

Antiques

Summit Antiques Center (511 Morris Avenue, ☎ 908-273-9373).

Malls

Livingston Mall (112 Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston, ☎ 973-994-9390).
The Mall at Short Hills (1200 Morris Turnpike, Short Hills, ☎ 973-376-7350).

Shopping Districts

Montclair (☎ 973-744-7660).

Hudson County

Tucked into a corner of Northeastern New Jersey, tiny Hudson County (it's the state's smallest county, yet the most densely populated) is named after the famous explorer and his namesake river.

Hudson County Towns	
Bayonne	**Jersey City**
East Newark	**North Bergen**
Harrison	**Secaucus**
Hoboken	**Union City**
Guttenberg	**Weehawken**
Kearny	**West New York**

Hudson County played a major role in the great immigration exodus from Europe that helped to define this country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was to Hudson County's Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal (now located in Liberty State Park) that many of the immigrants who came through Ellis Island would go after their processing was complete. From the railroad terminal many would then vanish into the nearby landscape, seeking jobs, friends, or some other way to begin their life in this strange new land.

Today that pivotal role in the history of this nation is celebrated in such Hudson County attractions as the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. But unfortunately, another historic event that took place in Hudson County is not celebrated: the first baseball game in history. It was played on the expansive Hoboken greenbelt known as the Elysian Fields, but there is now little indicating this signal event.

There are still interesting and unusual things to do in Hudson County. Read on to find out more.

> ***Historical Fact:*** *Most people have heard of Alexander Hamilton, and if you've ever handled a $10 bill, you know what he looks like. But did you know he died in Weehawken in Hudson County?*

Unless you slept throughout American History in school, you know that Alexander Hamilton was one of this country's Founding Fathers. You also know that he was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. That infamous duel took place in Weehawken. Today the occasion (not the actual site) is marked by a stone with a bust of Hamilton on top. According to legend, the wounded Hamilton rested his head on the stone.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *Today we're used to million dollar gates for sporting events, but the first time it ever happened was in Jersey City, at the Jack Dempsey-Georges Carpentier boxing match on July 2, 1920. The fight grossed $1,789,238. The result of the fight at Boyle's 30 Acres? Dempsey destroyed Carpentier in 11 minutes.*

Best Bets

Liberty State Park (Audrey Zapp Drive & Philip Drive, off NJ Tpke. Exit 14B, Jersey City, ☎ 201-915-3403, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Once upon a time, this was the bustling Jersey City waterfront, and it was alive with ships, cargo and people.

But things being what they are, the waterfront fell victim to urban blight because of a number of factors, and for many years it just sat there, rotting and dreaming of better days gone by. Then in the 1970s the state of New Jersey decided to turn this neglected area into a park, and happy days were here again. Today the park contains over 1,000 acres, including the historic Central Railroad Terminal. There are picnic facilities, a nature trail, a boat launch, interpretive events, and a nature center. The park's natural area contains one of the few remaining tidal salt marshes within the Hudson River estuary. You can't get a better view of the New York City skyline unless you're King Kong and you go for a climb to the top of the Empire State Building. The views of the Statue of Liberty are excellent as well.

Liberty Science Center (Philip Street, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, ☎ 201-200-1000, Monday-Sunday, 9:30-5:30, www.lsc.org). Now here's a great idea – placing a cool, interactive learning experience for kids and adults inside a popular state park. Liberty Science Center is three floors and 250 hands-on exhibits of fun with science, and that's not even counting the colossal eight-story **IMAX theatre** – the largest in the United States. You can either visit the science center as a separate trip, or together with a visit to the park. (Separate admission required for the science center, however.)

Each of the floors has a different theme: environmental, health and education. While kids are encouraged to get their hands dirty with science, touching dinosaur bones and whatnot, this isn't just a place where children have all the fun and adults stand around smiling paternally. The Liberty Science Center has managed to craft exhibits that appeal to all ages, so parents are soon swept into the action alongside the children. Typical of this is the **Touch Tunnel**, a 100-foot-long pitch black tunnel that you have to crawl your way through by feeling the walls. Talk about disorienting, but just try to watch kids crawl through it and not give it a go yourself.

Another interesting thing is the viewable section of a honeybee hive. The honeybee is the New Jersey state insect, and watching the bees here for just a little while makes you realize that the expression "busy as a bee" is no joke.

More than 250 exhibits here combine the neat trick of having fun while learning. Be prepared to spend several hours here, as this interactive science center captivates both you and your children.

Things are always changing, so if you haven't been here for awhile, it's likely to be different.

The Statue of Liberty (Upper New York Bay, Liberty Island, ☎ 212-363-3200, 9:30-5, www.nps.gov/stli). It's easy to visit Lady Liberty by taking the ferry from Liberty State Park.

A Statue in Pieces

Did you know that the Statue of Liberty almost didn't wind up in New York Harbor? Shipped from France in pieces, she waited patiently for money to be raised for her pedestal. While she was waiting, other cities, such as Baltimore, offered her a home if New York City didn't want her. Money dribbled in, and it was only after New York newspaper giant Joseph Pulitzer took charge of the fund-raising effort that the Lady's location was assured.

Take the ferry from the park so you can avoid traveling into New York City. If you plan it right, you can see both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in one day. A museum in the bottom floor of the Statue explains her construction. It's also amazing to see the original torch, which is also on display. When you do see the Lady, stop and reflect on how fortunate you are to live here.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Due to security concerns, the Statue of Liberty and the museum were closed after September 11, 2001. Only the grounds of Liberty Island are open for visitation. Call first and learn of the current situation before going there.*

Ellis Island (New York Harbor, Jersey City, ☎ 212-363-3206, 9:30-5:15, www.ellisisland.com). You can take the same ferry as above from Liberty State Park to see Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

There are numerous cruises that take place on New York Harbor and around the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Some offer lunch or dinner, and some just stick to the basics.

Even though some of it is in ruins, the magnificent Great Hall at Ellis Island has been restored, and it is a wonder.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Ellis Island is about as "adult" an attraction as you will find. Little kids will no doubt quickly grow bored with the displays of old artifacts and immigration data. If you want to take the time to see Ellis Island properly, plan a visit without the kids.*

The huge display of baggage that greets you when you enter the Great Hall is a poignant reminder of the important part this facility played in American history. The bottom floor tells the story of immigration. Upstairs are various displays with artifacts from the people who came to this country to start a new life, such as a collection of clothing, that really makes the people come alive. There are also films about immigration.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Hours at Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty are seasonally adjusted. Call or check their respective websites to find out the current operating schedule.*

Afro-American Historical Society Museum (1841 Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, ☎ 201-547-5262). This museum contains exhibits on African-American culture and heritage. It documents the important role of African-Americans in history, with a special emphasis on New Jersey. The museum is located on the second floor of the Greenville Public Library. Among other things, there are exhibits on civil rights and the development of black churches, as well as many cultural exhibits. The museum sponsors a lecture series.

Hoboken Historical Museum (Hudson Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-656-2240, Tuesday-Thursday, 5-9, Saturday-Sunday, 12-5, www.hoboken-museum.org). Did you know that the first ice cream cone was patented in Hoboken? What about the fact that the zipper was invented in Hoboken? Find out all this and more at the Hoboken Historical Museum, a fascinating excursion into the storied past of one of New Jersey's most underrated towns. The museum is involved in a tremendous number of activities, including walking tours, a magazine, exhibits and lectures. A self-guided **Walking Tour of Hoboken** hits all the spots that have helped make this town famous. At any one time in this versatile museum you might encounter an art exhibit, or people singing sea shantys. The amount of historical activity in this small town is large indeed, and the museum manages to capture it all.

❦ ***Did you know****... that organized baseball was "invented" at Elysian Fields in Hoboken? To support the Abner Doubleday/Cooperstown myth, there is – nothing. No evidence except a moth-eaten baseball that is supposedly the original ball. To support the Hoboken theory, there is a scorebook, newspaper accounts, and the recorded actions of a man named Alexander Joy Cartwright, who probably deserves at least a portion of the title, "Father of Baseball," for his modernization of the game's rules. The Hoboken Walking Tour includes a stop at the Maxwell House coffee plant that was built on the site of Elysian Fields.*

Jersey City Historical Museum (350 Montgomery Street, Jersey City, ☎ 201-413-0303, Wednesday and Friday, 11-5, Thursday, 11-8, Saturday and Sunday, 12-5, www.jerseycitymuseum.org). If you've ever wanted to know more about the history of this area, this is the place to find out. The Jersey City Museum contains pottery, historic objects, paintings, photographs, maps, and a variety of other material that illustrates the earlier history both of North Jersey and Jersey City. The museum features rotating exhibits of art and other objects with a North Jersey theme.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Like shopping? The Hudson County town of Secaucus (its name comes from a Native American word meaning "where the snake hides") is fast developing a reputation as the "Flemington of the North" because of its abundance of factory outlets.*

Restaurants

Amanda's (American, 908 Washington Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-798-0101). Great food in a historic Victorian brownstone setting.

Arthur's Landing (seafood, 1 Pershing Road, Weehawken, ☎ 201-867-0777). Where to start? The Sunday brunch, or the view of the New York skyline?

Beyti (Turkish, 4105 Park Avenue, Union City, ☎ 201-865-6281).

Café Newport (Italian, 500 Washington Boulevard, Jersey City, ☎ 201-626-7200).

Casa Dante (Italian, 737 Newark Avenue, Jersey City, ☎ 201-795-2750).

City Bistro (American, 56-58 14th Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-963-8200).

Frankie and Johnnie's (steak, 163 14th Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-659-6202).

Hard Grove Café (Cuban, 319 Grove Street, Jersey City, ☎ 201-451-1853). An unusual cuisine is just the beginning.

The Iron Monkey (Asian-inspired American, 97 Green Street, Jersey City, ☎ 201-435-5756). How do you serve Asian-inspired American food? You'll have to visit to find out.

Lady Jane's (American, 51 Fourteenth Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-659-9390).

The Lady Riverboat (American, Liberty Landing Marina, Liberty State Park, Jersey City, ☎ 732-291-4354).

La Isla (Cuban, 104 Washington Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-659-8197).

Lantana (Italian, 1148 Paterson Plank Road, Secaucus, ☎ 201-867-1065).

Latin American Restaurant (Latin American, 4317-19 Bergenline Avenue, Union City, ☎ 201-863-9280).

The Madison Bar & Grill (World, 1316 Washington Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-386-0300).

Onieal's (Bistro, 343 Park Avenue, Hoboken, ☎ 201-653-1492). The bar's hopping, the food's excelling… what else is needed?

Puccini's (Italian, 1064 Westside Avenue, Jersey City, ☎ 201-432-4111).

Puerto Spain (Spanish, 116 Fourteenth Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-420-7008).

Rodeo (Southwestern, 230 Washington Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-216-1550).

Ruth's Chris Steak House (steak, 1000 Harbor Boulevard, Weehawken, ☎ 201-863-5100). Steak with a touch of Bourbon Street.

Spanish Pavilion (Spanish/Continental, 31 Harrison Avenue, Harrison, ☎ 973-485-7750).

Three A's (American, 500 Grand Street, Hoboken, ☎ 201-217-1650).

Zafra (Pan-Latino, 301 Willow Avenue, Hoboken, ☎ 201-610-9801).

Accommodations

Jersey City

Candlewood Suites (21 Second Street, ☎ 201-659-2900).

Courtyard By Marriott (540 Washington Boulevard, ☎ 201-626-6600).

Doubletree Club Suites (455 Washington Boulevard, ☎ 201-499-2400).

Econo Lodge (750-762 Tonnelle Avenue, ☎ 201-420-9040).

North Bergen

Days Inn (2750 Tonnelle Avenue, Highways 1 & 9, ☎ 201-348-3600).

Palace Hotel (2600 Tonnelle Avenue, ☎ 201-866-0400).

Secaucus

Amerisuites (Seacaucus Meadowlands, 575 Park Plaza Drive, ☎ 201-422-9480).

Courtyard By Marriott (455 Harmon Meadow Boulevard, ☎ 201-617-8888).

Crowne Plaza (2 Harmon Plaza, ☎ 201-348-6900).

Embassy Suites Hotel (455 Plaza Drive, ☎ 201-864-7300).

Hampton Inn (250 Harmon Meadow Boulevard, ☎ 201-867-4400).

Hilton Garden Inn (875 Highway 3 Service Road, ☎ 201-864-1400).

Holiday Inn Harmon Meadow (300 Plaza Drive, ☎ 201-348-2000).

Mainstay Suites (1 Plaza Drive, ☎ 201-553-9700).

Meadowlands Plaza Hotel (40 Wood Avenue, ☎ 201-272-1000).

Radisson Suite Hotel Meadowlands (350 Highway 3 West at Mill Creek, ☎ 201-863-8700).

Red Roof Inn (15 Meadowlands Parkway, ☎ 201-319-1000).

Weehawken

Sheraton Suites on the Hudson (500 Harbor Boulevard, ☎ 201-617-5600).

Shopping

Malls

Mill Creek Mall (Highway 3 West, Secaucus, ☎ 201-601-0008).

Newport Centre Mall (Exit 14C, New Jersey Turnpike, near entrance to Holland Tunnel, Jersey City, ☎ 201-626-2025).

Plaza at Harmon Meadow (700 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, ☎ 201-392-8700).

Outlets

Harmon Cove Outlet Center (20 Enterprise Avenue, Secaucus, ☎ 877-688-5382 or 201-348-4780).

Outlets at the Cove (45 Meadowlands Parkway, Secaucus, ☎ 877-688-5382 or 201-348-4780).

Secaucus Outlets (Meadowlands Parkway, Secaucus, ☎ 877-688-5382 or 201-348-4780).

The Shops and Restaurants at Lincoln Harbor (1200 Harbor Boulevard, Weehawken, ☎ 201-348-3703 or 201-348-4780).

Tonnelle Plaza (8101 Tonnelle Plaza, 81st Street & Tonnelle Avenue, North Bergen, ☎ 201-868-7990).

Shopping Districts

Hoboken (☎ 201-222-1100).

Union County

Union County was the last county in New Jersey to be created. Initially part of neighboring Essex County, Union came into existence in 1857. Larger than only Hudson County in New Jersey, Union nevertheless ranks sixth in the state in population. Its proximity to both New York City and the Atlantic Ocean has contributed to its steady growth in people and businesses.

Union County Towns	
Berkeley Heights	New Providence
Clark	Plainfield
Cranford	Rahway
Elizabeth	Roselle
Fanwood	Roselle Park
Garwood	Scotch Plains
Hillside	Springfield
Kenilworth	Summit
Linden	Union
Mountainside	Westfield
Winfield	

Union has a real diversity of things to do for the visitor. It has natural beauty, in the Watchung Reservation, Reeves-Reed Arboretum, and other areas. It has numerous historical attractions, such as Elias Boudinot's home in Elizabeth. And it also contains something for the

kids at the Bowcraft Amusement Park, a good time for shoppers at the gigantic Jersey Gardens Outlet Mall, and other surprises.

❦ ***Can You Believe It?*** *The Union County city of Roselle was the first in the world to be lit by incandescent bulbs.*

Best Bets

Deserted Village of Feltville/Watchung Reservation (452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, ☎ 908-789-3670, www.unioncountynj.org). Have you ever heard of David Felt? Not many people have, and that's a shame, because he's one of history's real characters. In the 1840s, Felt bought 700 acres of woodland in the Watchung Mountains, and on it he established a paper mill… and a kingdom. That's right, Felt founded a utopian community where he offered the residents freedom from the trials and tribulations of city life, and the chance to live in harmony with nature, away from the growing influence of the Industrial Age. The community that he founded had a church, general store, school and other buildings. Reportedly, Felt ruled it like a king (hence his title "King"). He even sounded a bell several times a day to let "his" citizens know when it was time to work, take a lunch break, and go home.

Today, Felt's kingdom is known as the Deserted Village, and is part of the Watchung Reservation, a beautiful 2,000-acre area located between ridges of the famous Watchung Mountains. What's strange about this area is that you're never out of earshot of traffic noises, even when you're in the middle of the woods. It's nature in the midst of civilization. The Deserted Village is like some eerie ghost town, but if it spooks you plan on exploring the rest of the scenic Watchung Reservation by foot via any of the walking trails. The story of David Felt and his kingdom is a little-known yet fascinating part of New Jersey history.

The Watchung Reservation is a beautiful spot that you hardly expect to find in an urban county like Union. The Watchung stables here teach horseback riding and there's also a natural history museum, fishing in three trout-stocked bodies of water, hiking more than 13 miles of trails, and picnicking.

Reeves-Reed Arboretum (165 Hobart Avenue, Summit, ☎ 908-273-8787, open dawn-dusk, www.reeves-reedarboretum.org). This is an interesting place, and not just because of all the flowers and greenery. It's an oasis of nature in the middle of a busy city. Although the property dates from Revolutionary times, its gardens didn't get going until the 1910s, when the property was bought by the Richard Reeves family. They hired landscape architects from New York City to plan the gardens, and that was the start of the arboretum. They

expanded the daffodill garden, planted a rose garden, designed a rock garden, and got the property established as an area of flowering beauty. In the 1960s, the Reed family became the owners. They added the herb garden and woodland trails.

Today this pretty little slice of nature has a lot of trees to notice as well as the flowers and shrubs you see on the nature trail. It contains over five acres of formal gardens. The rose garden is a riot of color in the summer, when the lilac garden contains so many blossoms that it's almost impossible to take it all in, and the other gardens are equally gorgeous at their peak time of year. The arboretum also has plenty of benches so you can sit and just drink in the serenity of this amazing place.

Trailside Nature and Science Center (452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, ☎ 908-789-3670, daily 1-5, www.unioncountynj.org/park/trailside/html). If you go to the Watchung Reservation, you can't miss this nature center, which is located there. This was New Jersey's first environmental education facility, built in 1941. Besides explaining the history of the legendary Watchung Mountains, the center also contains a planetarium! (Call for schedule and hours.) At the center you can learn all about the Lenni-Lenape Indians, how to differentiate poisonous snakes from harmless ones, see a beehive, and many other things. There's an awful lot here for parents and kids to discover about the natural world.

Boxwood Hall (1073 E. Jersey Street, Elizabeth, ☎ 973-648-4540, 9-12 and 1-5, Monday-Saturday). This house, built in the 1750s, was once the home of Elias Boudinot, a pivotal yet sadly unknown figure from the American Revolution. You can find out something about him, as well as learn the history of the house, at Boxwood Hall. Named for the boxwood trees that are no longer present on the property, Boxwood Hall was once one of the grandest homes in Elizabeth. In April 1789, George Washington stopped there on the way to his first presidential inauguration in New York City, met the Committee of Congress for a little informal session before the formalities of office set in, and ate a fancy lunch. A guide takes you on a tour of the home. For history lovers, that consists of mainly the bottom floor, because additional stories have been added on over time. But it's still very possible to feel the spirit of those past times during the tour, and that's partly because of the guide's spirited presentation. Alexander Hamilton, a friend of Boudinot's family, also lived here for a time.

> ***Who Was Elias Boudinot?*** *Although his name is not as well-known as Hamilton, Jefferson, or Madison, he was as responsible as any of the Founding Fathers for America's victory in the Revolution. Boudinot performed several important functions during the war, but perhaps his most im-*

portant duty was as president of the congress during the time when the US was governed by the Articles of Confederation. As such, it was he who was running the country when the treaty of peace with Great Britain was formally signed in 1783, thereby officially ending the Revolutionary War.

Jersey Gardens (Exit 13A, New Jersey Turnpike, Elizabeth, ☎ 908-354-5900, Monday-Saturday, 10-9, Sunday, 11-7, www.jerseygardens.com). Here it is, the ultimate retail experience for shopaholics: the biggest outlet mall in New Jersey. There are dozens and dozens of outlets here, and if you can't find what you're looking for in Jersey Gardens, suffice it to say you aren't looking hard enough. Shops sell everything from shoes to greeting cards. The enclosed mall is quite large, and once around it is quite a trip, but the variety and type of stores can't be beat.

Liberty Hall Museum (1003 Morris Avenue, Union, ☎ 908-527-0400, Wednesday-Saturday, 10-4, Sunday, 12-4, www.libertyhall.org). This former private residence was built on the eve of the American Revolution. It has played an important part in both the history of this country and the history of New Jersey. Among numerous prominent Garden State families that used to live there are the Keans and the Livingstons. The house is an awe-inspiring 50-room Italianate-style Victorian. If you visit, expect a guided tour that is quite interesting. There is a short film about the house and its place in history. The house contains paintings, books, glassworks, and other objects that trace American history from the 1770s through today. The house remained in the Kean family for almost 200 years, and that makes it unusual among historic homes in that it wasn't passed around from owner to owner. The museum is closed from January through March.

Bowcraft (Highway 22 West, Scotch Plains, ☎ 908-233-0675, hours are seasonal so call first, www.bowcraft.com). Once you've finished dragging your kids to all the historic sites and natural places that you like, take them to Bowcraft. It's an amusement park that has been in operation for approximately 50 years. It has all the usual rides and games, but many of the rides are more "kid-speed" than you might find at thrill parks. However, the pace here is nice and relaxed, the rides fun, and the other attractions enjoyable.

Restaurants

Acquaviva Delle Fonti (Italian, 115 Elm Street, Westfield, ☎ 908-301-0700).

Aliperti's Restaurant and Catering (Italian, 1189 Raritan Road, Clark, ☎ 732-381-2300).

Aquila (Italian, 30 South Street, New Providence, ☎ 908-464-8383).

Brianna's (Italian, 1595 East Second Street, Scotch Plains, ☎ 908-322-9050).

Chez Catherine (French, 431 North Avenue, Westfield, ☎ 908-654-4011).

Florino's (Italian, 38 Maple Street, Summit, ☎ 908-277-1900).

Hunt Club Grill (American, 570 Springfield Avenue, the Grand Summit Hotel, Summit, ☎ 908-273-3000). Creative American food on tap here.

Huntley Taverne (global, 3 Morris Avenue, Summit, ☎ 908-273-3166).

La Catena (Italian, 386 East Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, ☎ 908-298-0828).

Le Rendevouz (French-Mediterranean, 520 Boulevard, Kenilworth, ☎ 908-931-0888). This restaurant gets creative with French dishes.

Raagini (Indian, 1085 Highway 22 East, Mountainside, ☎ 908-789-9777).

Ristorante da Benito (Italian, 222 Galloping Hill Road, Union, ☎ 908-964-5850).

Samba Grill (Brazilian, 102 East Broad Street, Westfield, ☎ 908-654-7797).

South Side Roman Bistro (Italian/Mediterranean, 336-338 South Avenue East, Westfield, ☎ 908-223-5334).

Spanish Tavern (Spanish, 1239 Highway 22 East, Mountainside, ☎ 908-232-2171).

Stage House Inn (French, 366 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, ☎ 908-322-4224). The inn dates back to around the 1730s.

Soufflé (French, 7 Union Place, Summit, ☎ 908-598-0717).

Theresa's (Italian, 47 Elm Street, Westfield, ☎ 908-233-9133).

Tiffany's Restaurant (American barbecue, 1637 Vauxhall Road, Union, ☎ 908-688-6666).

Trap Rock Restaurant & Brewery (American, 279 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights, ☎ 908-665-1755).

Accommodations

Clark

Holiday Inn Select (36 Valley Rd, ☎ 732-574-0100).

Cranford

Homewood Suites By Hilton (2 Jackson Drive, ☎ 908-709-1980).

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Courtyard by Marriott Newark Airport (87 Glimcher Realty Way, ☎ 908-436-9800).

Four Points by Sheraton Newark Airport (901 Spring Street, ☎ 908-527-1600).

Hampton Inn (1128-38 Spring Street, ☎ 908-355-0500).

Hilton Newark Airport (1170 Spring Street, ☎ 908-351-3900).

Residence Inn by Marriott (83 Glimcher Realty Way, ☎ 908-352-4300).

Wyndham Newark Airport Hotel (1000 Spring Street, ☎ 908-436-4600).

New Providence

Best Western Murray Hill Inn (535 Central Avenue, ☎ 908-665-9200).

Springfield

Holiday Inn (304 Highway 22 West, ☎ 973-376-9400).

Westfield

Westfield Inn – Best Western (435 North Avenue, ☎ 908-654-5600).

Shopping

Shopping Districts

Westfield (☎ 908-233-3021).

Outlets

Jersey Gardens (Exit 13A, New Jersey Turnpike, Elizabeth, ☎ 908-436-3005).

The Northwest

Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex & Warren Counties

These five counties really constitute the hidden New Jersey.

The northwestern part of New Jersey is many things, all of them delightful. It is green rolling hills, on which the sun casts giant cloud shadows. It is pretty little river towns that are full of antiques and fuller still of old-time charm and friendly people. It is long stretches of road that seem to lead nowhere, but make for as pleasant a drive as you can find nowardays. It is going forth on a delightful spring or fall day, and winding up in some place that you never expected, but are glad that you found and determined to come back to visit.

People who feel that New Jersey is all ribbons of concrete and big cities are in for a shock if they come to this region. It is the type of place in which you can get lost for a long time, and discover what's fun and exciting about life.

Many of the places to visit in this area revolve around nature. But there are also interesting historic sites, such as the first national military park in the country. (Yes, Washington was here too). There are

also facilities dedicated to the pursuit of such divergent sports as golf, tennis, and horseback riding. And – oh yes – if you like wine, you're in the right place.

So read on – and discover more about this fascinating and relatively unknown region of New Jersey.

Hunterdon County

Just the sound of the name conjures up delightful images of a bucolic, peaceful place, and that kind of image exactly fits Hunterdon County.

Hunterdon County Towns	
Alexandria Township	High Bridge
Bethlehem Township	Holland Township
Bloomsbury	Kingwood Township
Califon	Lambertville
Clinton	Lebanon
Clinton Township	Lebanon Township
Delaware Township	Milford
East Amwell Township	Raritan Township
Flemington	Readington Township
Franklin Township	Stockton
Frenchtown Borough	Tewksbury Township
Glen Gardner	Union Township
Hampton Borough	West Amwell Township

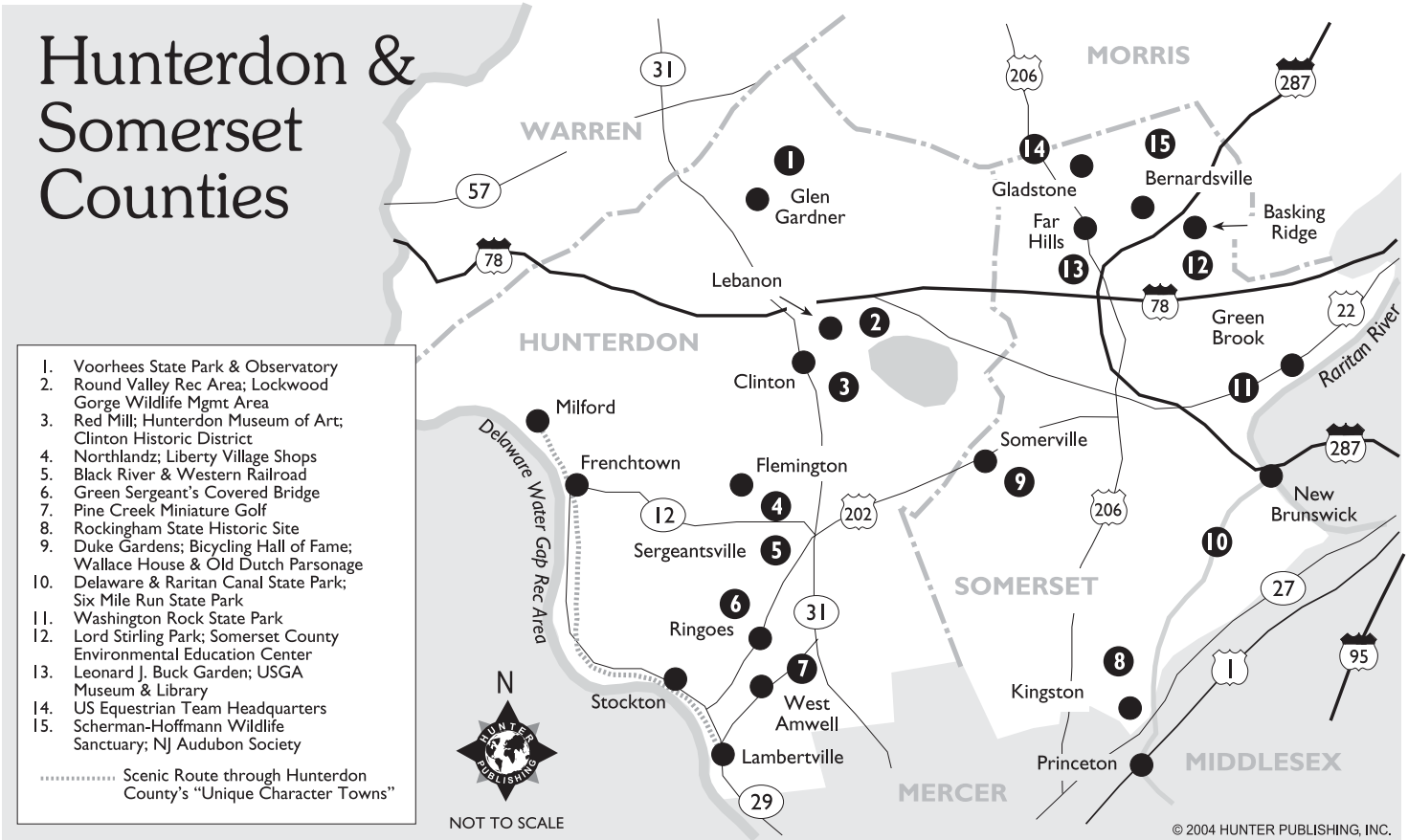
Hunterdon is part of what is known as the "Skylands" region of New Jersey. It is justifiably famous for its rolling green countryside. A very pleasant Sunday can be passed motoring through Hunterdon County, stopping at unique antique towns like Lambertville and wineries like the Unionville Vineyards. If you're the type who likes to just get up and go where the wind takes you, then Hunterdon County seems made to order for you.

Yet, besides antiques and wine (a fine combination in any book), Hunterdon also has some unusual destinations that you won't find anywhere else. These include a "miniature" golf course that plays more like an actual one, a fascinating world in miniature, and New Jersey's only remaining covered bridge.

So enjoy Hunterdon County – and join the thousands of other people who have already done the same.

❖ ***Tip:*** *If you want to go to a place where everybody's full of hot air, then check out the* ***New Jersey Festival of Ballooning****, held at Solberg Airport in Readington Township around the end of July each year for several days. There are over 100 balloons in all shapes and sizes, and seeing them all floating in the air is an incredible sight. There are also plenty of food stands, amusements, and other attractions here. An opportunity to float among the clouds.* ☎ *800-HOT-AIR-9 for further information.*

Hunterdon & Somerset Counties



Best Bets

Black River and Western Railroad (Stangl Road, off Highway 12, Ringoes, ☎ 908-782-9600, www.brwrr.com). This is like a museum on wheels. This old time railroad has cars like those in the good old days when the Iron Horse was King. The train goes for 16 miles, from Three Bridges in the north to Lambertville in the south. Shoppers and sightseers ride along as the train makes numerous stops at shopping areas and other locations. The train is highly convenient if you don't want to fight the sometimes heavy auto traffic in the area. But the real fun is just riding through the beautiful Hunterdon County countryside. You can really get a feel of what life must have been like when the train ruled the USA. All aboard!

❖ ***Tip:*** *Do you like to be "up, up, and away?" Then book a hot air balloon excursion through the Black River Railroad.*

Flemington (Flemington, www.flemington-nj.com). This is where you go when you die and want to shop throughout eternity. Once called "the town that bargains built" by a national news magazine, Flemington has over 120 outlet stores in several shopping centers and stand-alone stores. The largest collection is in Colonial-style Liberty Village. In 1981 this former artisan's center became the country's first outlet center, and it hasn't looked back since. Today it has 60 stores. Grab wallet firmly in hand and charge!

❖ ***Traffic*** *in and around Flemington can be quite unbearable, especially on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The earlier you go, the better.*

The story of how Flemington became a shopper's paradise is interesting. It began when a historic recreated village similar to Williamsburg, known as Turntable Junction, was built here in 1965. This was followed by Liberty Village, which featured things like people dressed in Colonial costume making candles and giving living history demonstrations of how things used to be. But a new owner in the late 1970s changed the focus to a discount retail center, and today it's hard to imagine Flemington as anything else.

❦ ***The Lindbergh Kidnapping:*** *Flemington was the site of one of the most famous and controversial legal cases of the 20th century – the Lindbergh baby kidnapping. After six weeks, the jury found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of the crime in a decision that continues to generate controversy to this day.*

Pine Creek Miniature Golf (394 Highway 31, West Amwell, ☎ 609-466-3803, call for seasonal hours, www.pinecreekgolf.com). What would happen if they built a miniature golf course in the style

of a regular golf course, with long approach shots and green fairways replacing the clown's mouth and swinging barn doors that you find on most miniature golf courses?

What you'd get is Pine Creek, a unique miniature golf course that looks and plays like a real one. The facility contains two courses, one a little bit harder than the other. Both are in the style of a regular golf course that has been shrunk down in size, but plays like a regulation course. The facility is maintained as precisely as a regular golf course; the only difference is in the length of the shots.

Round Valley Recreation Area (1220 Lebanon-Stanton Road, Lebanon, ☎ 908-236-6355, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This is one of the best state recreational areas in all of New Jersey. In the 1960s, Round Valley was simply that – a round valley. Then the state built a dam and pumped 55 billion gallons of water into it, creating an instant lake. The lake is 180 feet deep (the deepest lake in New Jersey), covers 4,000 acres, and contains 55 billion gallons of water. That's a big drink of water.

Round Valley is fun for a lot of reasons. It's one of the few state parks to offer wilderness camping. (Some campsites are accessible only by boat or hiking.) Of course there's boating – sailing, canoeing, kayaking, and anything else that doesn't require a gas-powered motor. Round Valley also provides some of the best freshwater fishing in New Jersey; large- and small-mouth bass, sunfish, brown, rainbow and lake trout and other varieties have all been caught. Among other activities to enjoy here are camping, hiking, snorkeling, scuba diving, bicycling, and horseback riding. This is also a winter sports Mecca for cross-country skiing, ice fishing and sledding.

Northlandz (495 Highway 202 South, Flemington, ☎ 908-782-4022, Monday-Friday, 10:30-4, Saturday-Sunday, 10-6, www.northlandz.com). Northlandz is an amazing place. This world in miniature is approximately one mile long. Not all in one piece, but separated into many different scenes and each miniature setting has train tracks and trains chugging through them. There are some eight miles of track here, with hundreds of bridges, some of them spanning giant gorges that are several floors deep. Everything in Northlandz seems to be on a radical angle.

Some of the scenery is truly incredible, such as the sides of "mountains" that tower 3½ stories into the air and have miniature houses connected to them and trains running in and out of the mountainside. There are over 400 buildings here, and the construction of the facility used enough lumber to build 42 large houses. There are several other exhibits, such as an art gallery and a doll museum. But the real attraction is Northlandz and its amazing world-in-miniature.

Clinton and the Red Mill (56 Main Street, Clinton, www.clintonnj.com). If you've ever seen a calendar of New Jersey or some other collection of pictures about the state, then you've undoubtedly seen the landmark Red Mill. It sits in the town of Clinton, just below the confluence of Spruce Run and the southern branch of the Raritan River, its famous waterwheel turning slowly, a reminder of simpler days. It has been called the most photographed building in New Jersey, and one look at it tells you why. If you don't have a camera, then you have an immediate urge to buy one and take a picture. Such is the attraction of the Red Mill.

In the water below the mill fishermen angle for dinner; from the wrought iron bridge above the water countless people admire, take pictures, and gaze at the mill, which is now a museum. It has several floors of exhibits, and tells the story of agricultural development in the area quite well. Across the water is the **Hunterdon Museum of Art**. The museum is in a four-story stone grist mill listed on the National and State Historic Registers. It presents exhibits of modern and contemporary art, featuring established as well as emerging artists. They also offer children's and adult art classes. ☎ 908-735-8415, www.hunterdonartmuseum.org.

When you're done with these two sites – and it's hard not to spend a lot of time just admiring them – then don't miss the adjacent shops in the **Historic District** of Clinton. This is a delightful place, where funky shops with a quirky character all their own beckon shoppers. A really nice day can be spent just gazing at the mill, visiting the museum, having lunch in one of the adjacent restaurants, and then walking around Clinton.

Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge (Route 604, Sergeantsville). OK, there isn't a lot to do here. In fact, there's nothing to do here. But you don't need anything to do as long as you can gaze at this last of a species – the sole remaining covered bridge in New Jersey. There is something incredibly peaceful and serene in looking at this narrow, one-lane bridge surrounded by trees and woodlands. As with the Clinton Mill, artists trek by the hundreds to paint or photograph Green Sergeant's Bridge. It inspires their soul, and will do the same to yours.

❦ ***Curious Fact:*** *Did you know that the Green Sergeant's Covered Bridge came very close to being torn down? In a less nostalgic age an accident knocked it askew, and the county was tempted to replace it with a modern, two-lane steel trestle. But at the last minute the powers-that-be realized what a vital link to the past this was, and decided to rebuild it.*

Hunterdon County "Unique Character" Towns. It's delightful to visit many of the county's small, stylish towns for such things as antique shopping. Most of the towns in Hunterdon are quite pretty, and retain elements of decades past, when life was simpler. If you don't want to drive, you can always bicycle. Bicycling through the green rolling hills, and stopping in each town for shopping and to grab a bite, is a great way to spend a beautiful spring or autumn day. One of the best routes is from Milford to Lambertville. The road takes you from Milford, through Frenchtown and Stockton, and ends up at Lambertville. Whether you bicycle or drive, this is a pleasant journey. Even if you don't take this route, there are other trips you can plan for a lazy day.

Voorhees State Park (251 Route 513, Glen Gardner, ☎ 908-638-6969, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Voorhees State Park served as a camp for Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. Besides tree planting, the CCC built trails, shelters and picnic areas throughout the park.

The park contains an observatory built by the New Jersey Astronomical Association in the 1960s. With its 26-inch telescope (one of the largest private telescopes in the state), the Association offers public star-gazing programs throughout the year. ☎ 908-638-8500 for further information.

Of course, the park also offers other outside activities, such as hiking, fishing, hunting, a children's playground, and picnicking.

Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area (Raritan River Road, off Route 639, Lebanon Township, ☎ 609-984-0547). If this isn't the prettiest wildlife area in the entire system, it's close. Approximately three miles of the south branch of the Raritan River run through the gorge, making it an extremely popular spot for fly-fishing.

But the beauty here can also be enjoyed by hikers. Boulders lie strewn all about the river, making a walk along it quite different than the usual hike by the water. The boulders also make for some interesting water formations, particularly when the water level is high.

Remember, however, that this is a wildlife management area. That means you don't go crashing in there with a bag of cheese snacks and a six-pack of sodas; the animals and those that use the gorge after us are counting on us to preserve its beauty.

Restaurants

Andiamo (Italian, American, French, 13 Klines Court, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-6767).

Anton's at the Swan (American, 43 S. Main Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-1960).

Atrio Café (American, 515 Bridge Street, Stockton, ☎ 609-397-0042).

De Anna's (Italian, 18 S. Main Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-8957).

Church Street Bistro (French, 11½ Church Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-4383).

Coach 'N Paddock (Continental, 86 Route 173, Hampton, ☎ 609-735-7889).

The Fish House (seafood, 2 Canal Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-6477).

Frenchtown Café (American, 44 Bridge Street, Frenchtown, ☎ 908-996-0663).

49 North Main (American, 49 N. Main Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-5990).

Frenchtown Inn (French, 7 Bridge Street, Frenchtown, ☎ 908-996-3300). If you like dining in style on the Delaware River, this is the place for you.

Hamilton's Grill Room (Mediterranean, 8½ Coryell Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-4343). It's not every day that you can find unique Mediterranean cuisine in Hunterdon County, but here you go.

Harvest Moon Inn (American, 1039 Old York Road, Ringoes, ☎ 908-806-6020). The old-time stone farmhouse location is not the only reason to dine here, but it certainly adds to the charm.

Ixora (French & Japanese, 407 Highway 22 East, Whitehouse, ☎ 908-534-6656). Both types of cuisine are served separately and "fused" together at this interesting establishment.

Manon (French, 19 N. Union Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-2596).

Meil's Restaurant (American, Bridge & Main Streets, Stockton, ☎ 609-397-8033). Home-style at its finest. Pass the pork chops and potato pancakes, please.

Milford Oyster House (seafood, 17 Bridge Street, Milford, ☎ 908-995-9411).

#9 (Continental, 9 Kline Court, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-6380).

Ota-Ya (Japanese, 21 Ferry Street, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-9228).

Perryville Inn (American, Perryville Road, Perryville, ☎ 908-730-9500). Hunterdon County is rife with historic buildings. Here's one 200 years old, the site of this fine restaurant.

Race Street Café (French, 2 Race Street, Frenchtown, ☎ 908-996-3179

Ryland Inn (contemporary, Highway 22 West, Whitehouse, ☎ 908-534-4011). Outstanding wine list.

Sergeantsville Inn (eclectic American, Routes 523 & 604, Sergeantsville, ☎ 609-397-3700). A great old cozy building, dating to around 1770, enhances the dining experience.

The Stockton Inn (American, 1 Main Street, Stockton, ☎ 609-397-1250).

Tewksbury Inn (American, 55 Main Street, Oldwick, ☎ 908-439-2641

Accommodations

Clinton

Hampton Inn (16 Frontage Drive, ☎ 908-713-4800).
Holiday Inn Select (111 Route 173, ☎ 908-735-5111).
Riverside Victorian Bed & Breakfast (66 Leigh Street, ☎ 908-238-0400).

Flemington

Hampton Inn (148 Royal Road, ☎ 908-284-9427).
Main Street Manor B&B (194 Main Street, ☎ 908-782-4928).
The Ramada Inn (250 Route 202 & Highway 31, ☎ 908-782-7472).

Frenchtown

The Frenchtown Inn (7 Bridge Street, ☎ 908-996-3300).
The Guesthouse at Frenchtown (83 Ridge Road, ☎ 908-996-7474).

Lambertville

The Apple Inn (31 York Street, ☎ 609-397-9250).
Chimney Hill Farm Estate and Old Barn Inn (207 Goat Hill Road, ☎ 609-397-1516).
The Inn at Lambertville Station (11 Bridge Street, ☎ 609-397-4400).
York Street House (42 York Street, ☎ 888-398-3199 or 609-397-3007).

Milford

Chestnut Hill on the Delaware (63 Church Street, ☎ 908-995-9761 or 888-333-2242).

Sergeantsville

Silver Maple Organic Farm Bed & Breakfast (483 Sergeantsville Road, ☎ 908-237-2192).

Whitehouse Station

Holly Thorn House Bed and Breakfast (143 Readington Road, ☎ 908-534-1616).

Shopping

Antiques

Golden Nugget Antique and Flea Market (Highway 29, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-0811).

Lambertville Antiques Market (1864 River Road, Lambertville, ☎ 609-397-0456).

Outlets

Circle Outlet Center (Flemington Circle, Route 202 & Highway 31, Flemington, ☎ 908-782-4100).

Dansk Factory Outlet (Flemington Circle, Route 202 & Highway 31, Flemington, ☎ 908-782-7077).

Feed Mill Plaza Factory Outlet Center (Highway 12, Flemington, ☎ 908-788-0386).

Heritage Place (Highway 31 & Church Street, Flemington, ☎ 908-782-3413).

Liberty Village Premium Outlets (1 Church Street, Flemington, ☎ 908-782-8550).

Turntable Junction (off Church Street, Flemington, ☎ 908-782-1919).

Shopping Districts

Clinton (☎ 908-735-8614).

Frenchtown (☎ 888-996-6501).

Lambertville (☎ 609-397-0055).

Somerset County

Somerset County is just a bit too far north to be considered a "middle county," so it qualifies by the skin of its teeth as one of the "Skylands" region's counties.

Somerset is one of the oldest counties in America, having been formed by charter in 1688. Over 300 years later, Somerset offers a lot of office parks/businesses, combined with a lot of parkland and natural beauty.

Somerset County Towns

Bedminister	**Manville**
Bernards	**Millstone**
Bernardsville	**Montgomery**
Bound Brook	**North Plainfield**
Branchburg	**Peapack/Gladstone**
Bridgewater	**Raritan**
Far Hills	**Rocky Hill**
Franklin	**Somerville**
Green Brook	**South Bound Brook**
Hillsborough	**Warren**
Watchung	

There are plenty of outdoor attractions in Somerset. Yet there are also some unusual places to go, such as the Bicycling Hall of Fame in Somerset, Golf House in Far Hills, and the US Equestrian Team headquarters in Gladstone. And, being an historical county, you know that Somerset hasn't neglected the history side of the ledger either.

❦ ***Did You Know?*** *The treaty ending World War I for the United States was signed in Somerset County. The* ***Treaty of Versailles****, which ended the war for the other allied nations and contained a provision for American participation in the League of Nations, was defeated by the short-sighted US Senate in November, 1919. This meant America was still technically at war with Germany. When Warren G. Harding was elected President in 1920, he urged Congress to adopt a resolution ending the war. It finally did, in July, 1920, and sent it to the President, who was vacationing at the New Jersey home of Senator Joseph Frelinghuysen in Raritan. There, on July 2, 1920, Harding signed the resolution, finally ending the "war to end all wars."*

Best Bets

Duke Gardens (Route 206, Somerville, ☎ 908-722-3700, 9-4 October 1-May 31). Here's one of the most beautiful spots in New Jersey. Tobacco heiress Doris Duke really knew how to make Eden on Earth when she created this garden, which is her answer to DuPont's famous Longwood Gardens. Each of the 11 gardens represents a specific theme, such as the English Garden or the French Garden. Even the waiting area is gorgeous – all dark wood and nice furnishings. If you have a nature- or a flower-lover in your midst, Duke Gardens is not to be missed. A guide takes you through each garden, but gives you ample time to linger. Note that you must call and reserve a day and time for your tour in advance.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Duke Gardens is extremely popular during spring and around Easter; if you're planning a trip for then, it's advisable to make reservations (which are required) far in advance. In addition, the gardens are closed during the warm weather months of June through September because they're inside glass buildings and the heat can rise to oppressive levels.*

Rockingham (Route 603, Kingston, ☎ 609-683-7132, www.rockingham.net). This little-known State Historic Site, initially constructed in 1710, was General George Washington's last war-time headquarters, serving as such from August to November of 1783. While he was here, Washington received news of the Treaty of Paris having been signed, formally ending the American Revolution. It was also here that he wrote his famous "Farewell Orders" to the troops of the Continental Army.

In July, 2001, Rockingham was moved to its current 27-acre site and a start was made on its long-overdue restoration. The historic home was closed to visitors at that point. At this writing, restoration work

is proceeding, albeit slowly because of the anemic state budget. Something of a political football in recent years because of the shaky status of the restoration funds (will they or won't they be in the state budget?), let's hope this historic home will see better days soon. The goal of everyone who has been fighting for Rockingham (and it has taken a lot of bare-knuckle battling to save this unique treasure) is to make it a living history farm, expand the home's programs for guests, and include a children's museum. With the on-going restoration efforts, it's obvious that one should call before visiting the site.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Rockingham should have reopened by the time you visit.*

Golf House: The USGA Museum & Library (Corner Road/Route 512, Far Hills, ☎ 908-234-2300, Monday-Friday, 9-5, Saturday-Sunday, 10-4). People seem either to love golf or hate it. There are those who agree with Mark Twain that it's the "waste of a good walk," while others can't wait to get out on the links. Golf House is for those in the latter group. It's the museum of the United States Golfing Association, and a perfect place for golf nuts. This stately Georgian mansion, a former private residence, is full of memorabilia, photos, paintings and exhibits on golf and golfers all the way from Bobby Jones to Tiger Woods. There are two floors filled with exhibits, including hands-on displays. You can compare the swings of famous players, try your hand at putting, and do a variety of other activities. Even those not in love with golf will enjoy the history and hushed nature of this extremely lovely and genteel place, but it's for the golfer that Golf House exists. There's also a Research and Testing Center for new equipment in the rear of the property. Here you can watch the mechanical golfer Iron Byron smack one flawless drive after another in a test of golf balls. (More than 20,000 balls are tested annually.) You can also put sensors all over your body and get a video projection of your swing. There's much to see and do here, and since it's not usually crowded, you get to do it at your own pace.

Bicycling Hall of Fame (145 West Main Street, Somerville, ☎ 908-722-3620, www.usbhof.com). Continuing with our theme of sports shrines in Somerset County, here's one dedicated to a sport that's been increasing in popularity by two-wheeled leaps and bounds – bicycling. This homage to pedal pushers contains memorabilia, photos, historic equipment, and exhibits from the world of self-propelled transportation in a very refined atmosphere. Even given bicycling's popularity now, it's kind of amazing how popular it used to be. Eighty-three of the sport's most accomplished bicyclists are enshired here. It's not widely known that this cycling museum exists, which makes it doubly enjoyable and nice to tour, far from the maddening crowds.

Leonard J. Buck Garden (11 Layton Road, Far Hills, ☎ 908-234-2677, Monday-Friday, 10-4, Saturday, 10-5, Sunday, 12-5). Buck and his landscaper, the well-known rock garden specialist Zenon Schreiber, designed this interesting and unique place to be ecologically correct and not recognizable as man-made. Thus, the garden incorporates several large rock outcroppings into its design, mixing both natural elements and human creations. What is amazing is that the two men created this magnificent place by sight and intuition – not using some elaborate master plan on paper.

One of the most interesting things about the garden is the wide variety of plants that thrive in this rocky setting. The various rock "sections" create unique, individual climates that enable different plant species to grow in the same general area. A favorite spot is Reno rock, so named because Buck's wife told him that if he worked on one more rock setting – just one more – she would file for divorce in Reno.

❖ ***When to Come:*** *Although this rock garden is beautiful throughout the year, and especially in winter, when snow hangs on the rocks like cake frosting, it's especially gorgeous in April and May, when the world is reawakening with life and the greenery contrasts most with the brown rocks. Spring is also when its impressive collection of rhododendrons and wildflowers are in full bloom.*

Lord Stirling Park (Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, ☎ 908-766-2489). This park is actually connected to and a part of Great Swamp in Morris County, at the western edge, and so this whole area is a unique natural environment that provides enjoyable hours for the nature lover. It covers approximately 900 acres, with some nine miles of trails and two miles of boardwalk trails. You won't find another wilderness area like this on the East Coast. Somerset's County Environmental Education Center, located in the park, has various exhibits and science programs.

❦ ***A First:*** *The Environmental Education Center in Lord Stirling Park is supposedly the first public building in the United States that was heated and cooled completely by solar power.*

Scherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary (11 Hardscrabble Road, Bernardsville, ☎ 908-766-5787, Tuesday-Saturday, 9-5, Sunday, 12-5, www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Scherman). These two havens for birds and beasts are actually part of the New Jersey Audubon Society's wildlife refuges in the area. Together, they comprise about 276 acres of safe haven for over 200 species of animals.

This sanctuary has an interesting history. These were once two millionaires' estates, for which this part of New Jersey was well-known

at the turn of the century. But in the 1960s one of the families, the Schermans, donated land to start the sanctuary, and in the 1970s more land was added by Mr. Hoffman. The result is this serene combination of woodland, field and floodplain habitat.

There are several well-marked walking trails on the property. As you walk, try to spot the over 175 species of nesting birds that call the area home, as well as weasel, fox, mink, deer, and many other animals. This is not a place for picnicking, walking your dog or riding a horse, but it is a quiet place that thankfully didn't fall prey to development.

US Equestrian Team Headquarters (Pottersville Road, Gladstone, ☎ 908-234-1251, Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30). This is the home of the nonprofit group that represents America in international equestrian matches, such as those in the Olympic Games. So, if you like horses and love the sport of riding them competitively, this place is for you. The huge 54-stall stable on the grounds was built in 1916 of brick and concrete and has been described as one of the most ornate stables in the world. Most *people* don't live this well! Other areas to visit include the beautiful Trophy Room, which displays all the awards that US equestrians have won.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *So what do you do when the place you get your horses from suddenly gives animal power the boot in preference to gasoline power? That's what happened to the United States' equestrians in 1949, when the US Cavalry, which had been supplying their horses, suddenly became mechanized. Unhorsed by the whole affair, the US Equestrian Team was formed in 1950.*

Washington Rock State Park (Washington Rock Road, Green Brook, ☎ 201-915-3401, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Washington apparently slept in many places, but he *stood* in a lot more. One of those is at Washington Rock State Park. Because of the superior vantage point of this site on top of Watchung Mountain, he supposedly stood here in June, 1777, and watched the British troops maneuver in the valley below. He was then able to have his forces circle behind the British to cut off their retreat.

Today, that site has become Washington Rock State Park. At barely 50 acres, this is one of the smallest parks in the state system, although one of the oldest. It's listed here as a "best bet" because of the combination of historical and scenic interests. There isn't an awful lot to do except picnic, grill if desired, and relax. But sometimes, that's enough.

The Wallace House/Old Dutch Parsonage (Wallace House, 38 Washington Place, Somerville, ☎ 908-725-1015; Old Dutch Parson-

age, 71 Somerset Street, ☎ 908-725-1015; Wednesday-Saturday, 10-12, 1-4, Sunday, 1-4). Knock on the door of the Wallace House. If there is no answer, wait. If there is still no answer, then go across the street and to the right a little, to the Old Dutch Parsonage. Knock on the door. The hard-working guide administers both these properties, so if not at one house, he or she will be at the other.

The Wallace House served as Washington's headquarters during the Colonial Army's winter encampment (1778-79) at Middlebrook. Unlike the terrible winters at Valley Forge and Morristown, this was a relatively mild winter. Still, it was cold. The furnishings in the house were not used by Washington, but are of the correct period. While the Wallace House was the best house in the area, the rooms are not large and, being a tall man, Washington must have had to duck to get through doorways. He must have pined for the spaciousness and comfort of his Mount Vernon estate during his time there.

The Old Dutch Parsonage was the home of Reverend Jacob Hardenburgh. He held classes in theology there, but he needed more room, so he founded a little place called Queen's College, which today has become the mighty Rutgers University, the state university of New Jersey.

❖ ***Note:*** *Both houses have been undergoing extensive renovations. Call before visiting to find out their status.*

Restaurants

Acqua Ristorante (Italian, 777 Route 202, Raritan, ☎ 908-707-1777).

Allie's American Grille and Bar (American, 10 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, ☎ 732-560-0500).

The Bernards Inn (American, 27 Mine Brook Road, Bernardsville, ☎ 908-766-0002). If you like the Edwardian era, you'll love this inn, where fine food and atmosphere go together.

Chaterfield'a Bar & Grill (traditional, 273 Main Street, Gladstone, ☎ 908-234-2080).

Christine's (Italian, 200 Liberty Corner Road, Warren, ☎ 908-647-6700).

Dead River Pub (pub, 80 Allen Road, Basking Ridge, ☎ 908-580-1300).

Eccoqui (Italian, 107 Route 202, Bernardsville, ☎ 908-221-0040).

The Grain House (American, The Olde Mill Inn, 225 Route 202, Basking Ridge, ☎ 908-221-1150). Okay, it used to be a grain house. Now it has found a second life as a great dining establishment.

Ironwood Restaurant (American, 185 Madisonville Road, Basking Ridge, ☎ 908-766-8200).

Jo-Sho (Japanese, 120 Cedar Grove Lane, Somerset, ☎ 732-469-8969).

Le Petit Château (French, 121 Claremont Road, Bernardsville, ☎ 908-766-4544).

Hillsborough

Days Inn (118 Route 206, ☎ 908-685-9000).

North Plainfield

Howard Johnson Express Inn (Highway 22, ☎ 908-753-6500).

Raritan

Super 8 Motel (☎ 908-722-5400).

Somerset

Candlewood Suites (41 Worlds Fair Drive, ☎ 732-748-1400).
Courtyard Somerset (250 Davidson Avenue, ☎ 732-271-4555 or 800-321-2211).
Doubletree Hotel (200 Atrium Drive, ☎ 732-469-2600).
Hampton Inn (255 Davidson Avenue, ☎ 732-563-1600).
Holiday Inn (195 Davidson Avenue, ☎ 732-356-1700).
Madison Suites Hotel (Cedar Grove Lane, ☎ 800-372-9099).
Quality Inn (1850 Easton Avenue, ☎ 732-469-5050).
Somerset Marriott (110 Davidson Avenue, ☎ 732-560-0500).
Somerset Ramada Inn (Weston Canal Road, ☎ 732-560-9880).
Somerset Woods (199 Pierce Street, ☎ 732-564-1602 or 866-KORMAN-7).
Summerfield Suites Hotel (260 Davidson Avenue, ☎ 732-356-8000).

Warren

Somerset Hills Hotel (200 Liberty Corner Road, ☎ 908-647-6700).

Shopping

Malls

Bridgewater Commons (400 Commons Way, Bridgewater, ☎ 908-218-0001).

Shopping Districts

Historic Bound Brook (☎ 732-356-0833).

Sussex County

Sussex is New Jersey's northernmost county, occupying the very top of the distinctive head shape that is the Garden State.

Sussex County Towns	
Andover	Lafayette Township
Andover Township	Montague Township
Branchville	Newton
Byram	Ogdenburg
Frankford	Sandyston
Franklin	Sparta Township
Fredon Township	Stanhope
Green Township	Stillwater Township
Hamburg	Sussex
Hampton	Vernon Township
Hardyston Township	Walpack Township
Hopatcong	Wantage Township

Formed over 250 years ago, Sussex County is the complete antithesis of the common urban nightmare image that people have of New Jersey. You can't find a greener, more naturally beautiful county anywhere. Simply driving through the county is a delight.

Not that you have to do that. Sussex County has a surprising variety of things to see and do. There are natural areas, of course, but there are also mineral museums, an Old West town, and a zoo!

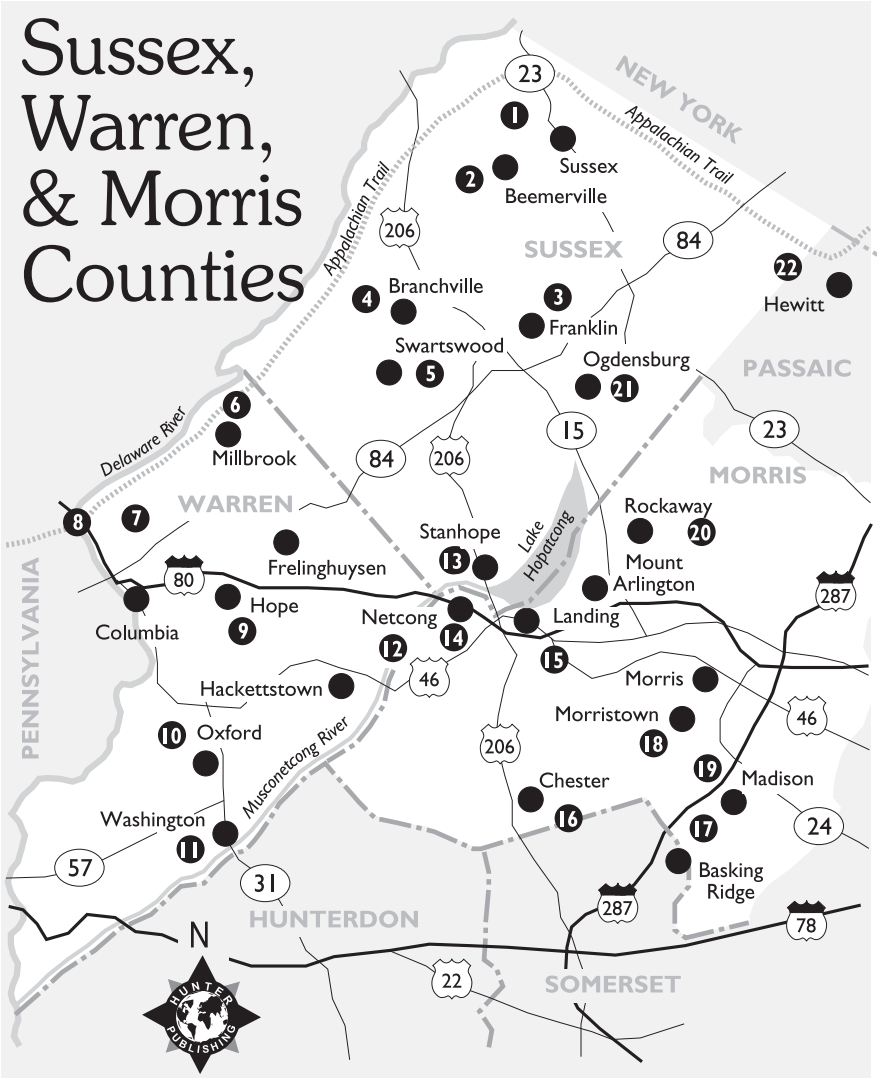
Sussex County may be way up in the tip of the state, but it certainly is worth the trip to get there.

Best Bets

Waterloo Village (525 Waterloo Road, Stanhope, ☎ 973-347-0900, www.waterloovillage.org). Once, long ago, this area was inhabited by the Lenni Lenape Indians. But the discovery of iron here led to the establishment of the Andover Forge, and soon the region was humming with the sound of industrial activity. Then, when the famous Morris Canal was completed in the early 1830s, Andover Forge became an important stopping point on the trip along the waterway that ran from the Delaware River to the Hudson River. The area was renamed Waterloo Village. But the coming of the railroad spelled the death knell for the canal as a method of transportation. Eventually, the village suffered greatly in the stock market crash of 1929, and thereafter was a virtual ghost town until restored in the early 1960s.

That is a short history of Waterloo Village, which is today much as it was back in the Colonial era. For those who enjoy early American engineering ingenuity, this is the only place on the East Coast where both a canal lock and the remnants of an inclined plane (the inge-

Sussex, Warren, & Morris Counties



1. High Point State Park
2. Space Farms Zoo and Museum
3. Franklin Mineral Museum
4. Stokes State Forest; Tillman Ravine
5. Swartswood State Park
6. Millbrook Village; Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
7. Worthington State Forest
8. Delaware Water Gap
9. Jenny Jump State Forest; Land of Make Believe & Pirate's Cove
10. Pequest Trout Hatchery
11. Merrill Creek Reservoir
12. Allamuchy Mountain State Park & Stephens State Park
13. Waterloo Village
14. Wild West City
15. Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum
16. Hacklebarney State Park; Willowwood Arboretum
17. Great Swamp
18. Morristown National Historic Park; Fort Nonsense; Ford Mansion; Historic Speedwell; Frelinghuysen Arboretum; Fosterfields Living Historical Farm; Morris Museum; MacCulloch Hall
19. Museum of Early Trades & Crafts
20. Mount Hope Historical Park
21. Sterling Hill Mine & Museum
22. Wawayanda State Park

NOT TO SCALE

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nious system of tracks and cables that helped boats overcome extreme changes in elevation) can be seen, along with the town.

Among the many buildings that can be visited are the general store, blacksmith shop, and grist mill. Another interesting building is the 1859 Methodist Church, which looks as if it got blown here directly from a New England village. Waterloo is composed of over 500 acres, and its houses reflect three periods in American history: Colonial, Federal, and Victorian. Of course, there is plenty of information here about canals, locks, inclined planes, and how boats moved through them. There is also a full-size Indian Village on Winakung Island in Waterloo Lake, which is a faithful reproduction of how the Lenni Lenape Indians lived. There is a farmsite, historical re-enactments, and costumed craftsmen and women displaying their skills. History doesn't get any more live than this.

High Point State Park (Highway 23, Sussex, ☎ 973-875-4800, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). High Point State Park is the highest point in all of New Jersey. Here, 1,803 feet above sea level at the top of the High Point Monument, you can see two mountain ranges in neighboring states: the Poconos and the Catskills. The land for the park was donated by Colonel Anthony Kuser and his wife in the early 20th century. In fact, to High Point State Park goes the honor of containing New Jersey's first natural area: the **Dryden Kuser Natural Area**. The Dryden Kuser Natural Area is 1,500 feet above sea level, which means that it contains the highest elevation swamp of Atlantic white cedar in the world. It is named for Dryden Kuser, noted state senator and environmental advocate. The park's landscaping was done by the Olmsted Brothers of Boston. Their dad was Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed another place you might have heard of called Central Park.

Besides scampering up the 220-foot-tall High Point Monument for the breathtaking view, you can also hike, swim (in season), picnic, boat, camp, horseback ride, mountain bike, and do a multitude of other outdoorsy things.

Sometimes it's fun to just walk the park and spot the animals. High Point has been known to contain river otters, beaver, foxes, white-tailed deer, and raccoons.

- ***Tip:*** *This is a great place in the winter, as you might suspect, because of its elevation. It's a prime location for ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other sports – even dog sledding! In fact, park rangers on patrol sometimes wear snowshoes after a big snowfall. The park contains a cross-country ski center and offers numerous ski trails, some of which are covered by artificial snow when nature won't cooperate with the real stuff.*

Wild West City (Route 206 North, Netcong, ☎ 973-347-8900, weekends, May to mid-October, daily from mid-June to early September, 10:30-6, www.wildwestcity.com). Here's a tip. Don't put your money in the bank at Wild West City, because it gets held up daily! But that's just part of the fun at this re-creation of Dodge City in the 1880s. It's dusty and full of people who say "howdy ma'am" and tip their hats to ladies. There's also plenty of excitement, such as stagecoach robberies, shootouts, and the occasional outlaw gang cruising through town looking for trouble. You can pan for gold, pet "the critters" in a petting zoo, and just generally see what life was like in the Old West. There's also miniature golf, but there's no truth to the rumor that Wyatt Earp swung a mean putter!

❖ ***Tip:*** *All of the activities in Wild West City take place outside, on dirt roads and wooden boardwalks. Wear comfortable shoes that you don't mind getting dusty.*

Franklin Mineral Museum (32 Evans Street, Franklin, ☎ 973-827-3481, April-November, 10-4, Monday-Saturday, 11-4:30, Sunday, weekends in March, www.franklinmineralmuseum.com). Rockhounds, this is for you. The Franklin ore vein contained the richest concentration of zinc in the world, as well as 30 minerals not found anywhere else in the entire world. In 1954 the ore bed was finally depleted, after being mined for over 100 years. Today, this area and its mining heritage lives on in the Franklin Mineral Museum, which contains about 300 different minerals from the Franklin-Ogdensburg area.

The largest fluorescent display in the world? Why here, of course; approximately 75 different types of flourescent minerals are on exhibit. That has earned Franklin the title of "Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World." The special ultraviolet lights that they play over these minerals produce an unbelievable display of colors. You can also explore an above-ground re-creation of a mine with equipment and materials actually used in Franklin Zinc Mine Operations.

There is a natural history wing of the museum to explore. Here you can find collections of fossils such as fish, dinosaur footprints, and shells. There is also a section devoted to Native Americans.

Sterling Hill Mine & Museum (30 Plant Street, Ogdensburg, ☎ 973-209-7212, March-November, 10-5, www.sterlinghill.org). So you go through the whole book without anything for rock hounds, and then there are two entries in a row. But Sterling Hill is in the same general area as the Franklin Museum – they're just a couple of miles apart.

Even though Franklin Mine depleted its supply of zinc in 1954, Sterling Hill continued its mining operations until 1986. Then, after

some tangled-up legal issues had been straightened out, the Hauck brothers took title to the property. It was through their efforts, and those of numerous volunteers, that this unique part of New Jersey's heritage was protected.

Today, Sterling Hill is a National Historic Site, and a fascinating place to visit. You can tour both underground and above-ground exhibits, including a former mining tunnel. There's a display of flourescent minerals here as well, and a large exhibit hall that tells you about the life and times of the men who struggled to carve a living out of the earth. This is one of the major differences between the Franklin Museum and Sterling Hill: Sterling Hill concentrates more on the history of mining and the lives of the miners.

Kids particularly enjoy the Rainbow Room, which contains over 70 types of fluorescent minerals. When the incandescent lights are turned off and the ultraviolet lights come on, the effect is like a galaxy of brightly colored stars.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Sterling Hill is an underground tour and therefore chilly. Bring a light jacket, because the temperature contrast can be quite sharp, particularly on a hot summer's day.*

Space Farms Zoo & Museum (Route 519, Beemerville, ☎ 973-875-5800, May-October, 9-5, www.spacefarms.com). No, this isn't a zoo for extra-terrestrial creatures. In fact, it's named for the family that began the zoo and still operates it. There are over 500 animals here representing more than 100 species: lions, monkeys, elk, bobcats, hyenas, foxes, bears, and more. Speaking of bears, the entrance is adorned by the giant stuffed figure of Goliath, a Kodiak bear that lived here until he died of old age in 1991. He is listed in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's largest bear (12 feet, 200 pounds). This is reportedly the world's largest private collection of North American wildlife. The museum includes collections of dolls, guns, clocks, farm equipment, motorized vehicles, carriages, and a fascinating miniature circus exhibit.

The **Douglas Trail** to Sunfish Pond is named after legendary Supreme Court Justice and ardent environmentalist William O. Douglas. He helped wage the battle to preserve Sunfish Pond and stop it from being converted into a reservoir.

❖ ***Tip:*** *The terrain here is not for the faint of foot. The trails, particularly the one to the top of Mount Tammany, the Red Trail, are steep and difficult in spots.*

Tillman Ravine (Stokes State Forest, Branchville, ☎ 973-948-3820, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Consistently noted as one of the most beautiful areas in all of New Jersey (or anyplace else, for

that matter!), Tillman Ravine is the place to go for nature lovers and those who seek solace in the peace and tranquility of the Earth.

Tillman is in the southwestern portion of Stokes State Forest, and is a natural gorge with a series of waterfalls that cascade down to the Delaware River below. Tillman Brook gurgles through rock layers of red shale and sandstone, creating the waterfalls. The entire ravine is surrounded by a forest of hemlock trees. If you look up the word "beautiful" in the dictionary, it should be accompanied by a picture of Tillman ravine.

❖ ***The Teacup:*** *At the bottom of Tillman Ravine is a large circular hole known as the "teacup." It is a popular place for many visitors and tired hikers to rest and watch the simple majesty of the flowing water.*

With the rock outcroppings, magnificent trees, and greenery in the area, you might well think that you've just been magically transported to a swift-running mountain stream in the Northwest. Relax and enjoy one of the most spectacular sights that nature has ever given us.

❖ ***Tip:*** *There's much more to do at Stokes than just visit Tillman Ravine. Activities include hiking, camping, picnicking, boating, horseback riding, mountain biking, swimming, and cross-country skiing.*

Swartswood State Park (Route 619, Swartswood, ☎ 973-383-5230, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). A long time ago, the glaciers retreated across New Jersey on their way back North. As they did so, they left behind a lot of things to remember them by, such as Great Swamp. Something else that they left us was **Swartswood Lake** and **Little Swartswood Lake**, which together form the centerpiece of this fabulous state park.

As you might imagine, water-related activities are much in evidence at Swartswood State Park. Fishing is especially good here, with brown trout and walleye leading the worm-eaters hit parade. Another good thing to do here is picnic; the tables are set on a hillside overlooking the larger lake, an extremely pleasant location. The lake is frequently dotted with sailboats and the view from the picnic tables is superb.

Wawayanda State Park (885 Warwick Turnpike, Hewitt, ☎ 973-853-4462, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This park is way up north, practically at the border of New York and New Jersey. Because it's so far upstate most folks don't visit it, and that's a shame. It's one of the prettiest state parks in the system, and often is relatively deserted as well.

The name "Wawayanda" is from the Lenni Lenape Indian language, and means "water on the mountain." The park is justifiably famous for its spectacular rhododendrons, which usually bloom from late June through early July.

The wooded area surrounding Lake Wawayanda is beautiful, especially in the autumn, when the trees are alive with colors. Wawayanda is also known for its hiking trails. The park contains a 20-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail, and has more than 40 miles of additional hiking trails. The park was once a logging center, and many of the hiking trails are converted logger's paths.

A trip to the top of **Wawayanda Mountain** offers some of the best vistas in the area. There are two natural areas for walkers that are soothing to the soul. Of particular note is **Wawayanda Swamp Natural Area**. It contains a rare Atlantic white cedar swamp. Sometimes beavers can be seen there.

Stokes State Forest (1 Coursen Road, Branchville, ☎ 973-948-3820, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Stokes State Forest (take Route 206, four miles north of Branchville), home of the aforementioned **Tillman Ravine**, has long been considered one of the top state parks for its scenic vistas. For those who have the stamina and the foot power, the view from the summit of **Sunrise Mountain** is spectacular. However, be warned; at 1,653 feet high, reaching the summit can be daunting for some. Anglers, swimmers, and hunters enjoy this park, as do mountain bikers and horseback riders. If you go, do not forget to visit Tillman Ravine.

Restaurants

Andre's Restaurant (American/Continental, 182 Spring Street, Newton, ☎ 973-300-4192).

Black Forest Inn (German, 249 Route 206, Stanhope, ☎ 973-347-3344). Eating here makes you realize that Germany should be noted for far more than just good chocolate.

Bula (world cuisine, 134 Spring Street, Newton, ☎ 973-579-7338).

Lafayette House (American, between Routes 94 & 15, Old Lafayette Village, Lafayette, ☎ 973-579-3100).

Shelby's (American/Continental, 4 Main Street, Hamburg, ☎ 973-209-0300).

Walpack Inn (American, Route 615, Walpack, ☎ 973-948-3890). Good food and generous portions equal a great dining experience.

Accommodations

Andover

Holiday Motel (708 Route 206, ☎ 973-786-5260).

Branchville

Cobmin Ridge Motel (346 Route 206, ☎ 973-948-3459).
Forest Motel (104 Route 206, ☎ 973-948-5456).

Franklin

Four Seasons Motel & Cottages (59 Highway 23, ☎ 973-827-7890).
Sullivan's Gas Light Inn (Highway 23 3-382, ☎ 973-827-8227).

Glenwood

Apple Valley Inn Bed & Breakfast (967 Route 517, ☎ 973-764-3735).

Hopatcong

Arrowcrest Lodge (469 River Styx Road, ☎ 973-398-2334).
Hob Nob Motel (27 Lakeside Boulevard, ☎ 973-398-8317).

McAfee

Days Inn McAfee (Route 94, ☎ 973-827-4666).

Newton

Village Inn (448 Route 206 South, ☎ 973-383-3922).
Waldmere Hotel (144 Spring Street, ☎ 973-383-1130).
The Wooden Duck (140 Goodale Road, ☎ 973-300-0395).

Sparta

Brick House Farm Bed & Breakfast (125 Sparta Avenue, ☎ 973-726-5713).

Stanhope

Byram Motel (24 Route 206, ☎ 973-347-1007).
Whistling Swan Bed and Breakfast (110 Main Street, ☎ 973-347-6369).

Sussex

Fountain Square Inn (82 Fountain Square, ☎ 973-875-4198).
High Point Country Inn (1328 Highway 23, ☎ 973-702-1860).
Rolling Hills Motel (127 Highway 23, ☎ 973-875-1270).

Sussex Inn (9 Main Street, ☎ 973-875-3000).
Sussex Motel (187 Highway 23, ☎ 973-875-4191).

Vernon

Alpine Haus (217 Route 94, ☎ 973-209-7080).
Appalachian Motel (367 Highway 94, ☎ 973-764-6070).

Wantage

High Point Country Inn (1328 Highway 23 North, ☎ 973-702-1860).

Shopping

Antiques

Lafayette Mill Antique Center (12 Morris Farm Road, Lafayette, ☎ 973-383-0065).

Outlets

Olde Lafayette Village Outlets (Highways 15 & 94, Lafayette, ☎ 973-383-8323).

Warren County

Warren County is the westernmost county in New Jersey. Sparsely populated and full of beautiful natural areas, Warren County is a great place to get away from it all.

Warren County Towns	
Allamuchy Township	Independence Township
Alpha	Knowlton Township
Belvidere	Liberty Township
Blairstown Township	Lopatong Township
Franklin Township	Mansfield Township
Frelinghuysen Township	Oxford Township
Greenwich Township	Phillipsburg
Hackettstown	Pohatcong Township
Hardwick Township	Washington
Harmony Township	Washington Township
Hope Township	White Township

Come here if you enjoy wine; several of the state's wineries are located in this small county and you can easily reach one or more in the same day.

The main attractions in Warren County, however, are natural. This, of course, will not make the young ones happy, but that's why you take them to the boardwalk. There's nothing better than unfurling a blanket in one of these state parks or forests for a good, old-fashioned

picnic. And after you've eaten all that food, you can walk it off by hiking any of the zillions of trails in this part of the world.

However, just when you've got the kids thinking that they'd rather be in school than here, hit them with the delightful Land of Make Believe/Pirates Cove or even the trout hatchery. That should make them realize that Warren County is more than trees, hills, and soft green grass.

Best Bets

Pequest Trout Hatchery (605 Pequest Road, Oxford Township, ☎ 908-637-4125, open daily, 10-4, www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pequest). All the trout that the state uses to stock over 200 lakes, streams, and rivers in New Jersey come from the Pequest Trout Hatchery.

This is an interesting facility and one of the most modern trout hatcheries in the nation. It produces 600,000 brown, rainbow and brook trout per year. If you have either big or budding fishermen in the family, they will almost certainly be interested in the 15-minute video presentation that details how the trout grow from a tiny egg to flopping fish. Outside are the areas, known as raceways, that the fish inhabit once they've become large enough. From this point the fish grow bigger, until eventually they can be released into the waters.

Besides all the "fishy" information, there are nature trails, educational displays, and even picnic tables, where you trade fish stories. The hatchery offers numerous public programs, some fishing-oriented and some environmental in nature. The programs require pre-registration.

One thing that's particularly interesting is to watch the fish get fed, which usually happens four times a day. The food, in pellet form, is released into the water from a truck. If you thought your relatives were voracious at Thanksgiving, you should watch the crazed way these young trout go after their food. It gives bad manners a new meaning.

But it's not only the fishermen who will find Pequest interesting. The fish hatchery is located in the **Pequest Wildlife Management Area**. This is a large tract (1,500+ acres) that is popular for hiking, fishing, hunting, birdwatching, and other activities.

Lakota Wolf Preserve (89 Mount Pleasant Road, Columbia, ☎ 877-733-9653, www.lakotawolf.com). So what do you do when the pack of wolves that you've been friendly with for so long has to move? You bring them to Warren County and start a wolf preserve, that's what. Bobcats and foxes are also here, but it's the wolves who are the top dogs here. Photography opportunities abound, and serious shutter-

bugs can hire a wildlife photographer to take them around the preserve.

Millbrook Village (Millbrook Area, inside Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, ☎ 973-841-9531). Back in the 1830s, a farmer built a grist mill in the area, called Millbrook. For a while the town thrived, but the mill closed in 1900 and by the 1960s this was just a residential area. Then the controversial Tocks Island Dam project threatened to destroy some other buildings, which were moved here.

Today, Millbrook is a "restored" 1800s village. It doesn't try to replicate what the village was like in 1900, but just portrays a late 19th-century rural community, like so many that once dotted America but fell prey to industrialization. There are numerous homes and commercial buildings, such as a store, school and hotel. If you go on weekends from May through October, you'll find National Park Service employees and others dressed in 19th-century costumes and demonstrating crafts and skills of an earlier time. This is a fascinating place, where history truly comes alive. Plan on spending a whole day here.

❖ ***Tip:*** *One of the best times to go to Millbrook Village is on the first October weekend, when more than 100 volunteers of the Millbrook Village Society demonstrate crafts and skills of times past. However, be forewarned – both days of the weekend have to fall in October; otherwise, the event doesn't take place!*

Jenny Jump State Forest (State Park Road, Hope, ☎ 908-459-4366, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This is one in a series of great natural areas in Northwestern New Jersey. The main activity here is hiking. If you climb the trail to the top of Jenny Jump Mountain, you are rewarded with simply spectacular views of the Kittatinny Mountains, the Highlands, and the Great Meadows. This is one of the best parks to see evidence of the glaciers during the last Ice Age. Boulders and other debris are scattered as if tossed aside by a bored giant, and are frequently encountered on hikes. Some of the rock outcroppings have been estimated at 1.6 billion years old. It's a lot of fun to bring a picnic lunch, and just eat amidst the glory of nature. You can also go boating and fish in the eerily named Ghost Lake (which is only 10 feet deep at its most extreme). The park is a fabulous place for winter sports, and a cross-country skiing trip along one of the trails is truly memorable for the peace and solitude it brings.

This forest contains the **Greenwood Observatory**. On Saturday nights from April through October, the observatory hosts public programs.

❦ ***Jenny's Jump:*** *How did Jenny Jump Forest and Jenny Jump Mountain get their unique names? According to legend, in Colonial days a father and daughter were here when the father saw some Indians sneaking up on his child, who was high up on a rock. "Jenny, jump!" yelled the father… and she did.*

Allamuchy Mountain State Park (800 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown, ☎ 908-852-3790, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Allamuchy Mountain State Park and its sibling, **Stephens State Park**, are actually composed of over 9,000 acres spread over three counties (Morris, Sussex and Warren). But Warren wins "home field advantage" because the main office/mailing address is in Hackettstown.

Allamuchy Mountain Park, as its name suggests, is located on the uplands section of these lands, while Stephens is located in the valley below, in the shadow of the mountain. There are no campsites in Allamuchy, although Stephens has 40 sites.

The area has an extremely interesting history. It was mainly a group of small farms until Rutherfurd Stuyvesant, a descendant of the well-known Peter Stuyvesant (the Dutch governor of New York) purchased many of them around the turn of the 20th century. He established a private wildlife preserve of 100 acres known as Deer Park. He also introduced the English pheasant to the US. After another owner added land in the 1940s, the state of New Jersey used Green Acres money to buy the area in the 1970s and establish these parks.

Merrill Creek Reservoir (34 Merrill Creek Road, Washington, ☎ 908-454-1213, www.merrillcreek.net). This reservoir is not used for drinking purposes, but for generating electricity for communities in the area. The reservoir is actually owned by seven electrical utilities.

But if generating electricity doesn't give you a "buzz," just wait – there are some 2,000 acres here to hike through and enjoy nature. There's also fishing and boating. This is a very active facility keen on environmental management. The naturalists get important information from the fishermen about what they catch, and also from everyday hikers (if, for example, they encounter a bog turtle, they report it).

❖ ***Tip:*** *Merrill Creek Reservoir is one of those sites that is adversely affected by the current color-coded terrorist level. The reservoir is closed when the threat level is high. So it would be wise to call first to find out the current operational status before heading up there.*

Land of Make Believe and Pirate's Cove (354 Great Meadows Road, Route 611, Hope, ☎ 908-459-9000; open 10-6, weekends only from late May to mid-June; daily from mid-June to Labor Day; www.lomb.com). Take the kids to the Land of Make Believe and Pirate's Cove water park. Here you can let them enjoy the typical water park attractions (lazy river, slides, etc.), as well as a roller coaster, train, and many other rides. After a visit here, the kids will be beaming.

Worthington State Forest (Old Mine Road, Columbia, ☎ 908-841-9575, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This is the place to go for hikers and those who like spectacular views. The best views of northern New Jersey terrain, some feel, are found in Worthington State Forest. The Red Trail leads to the top of Mount Tammany, 1,527 feet above sea level, and provides an extraordinary view of the Delaware Water Gap. Here as well is **Sunfish Pond**, a pond formed by retreating glaciers from the last Ice Age that gave birth to Great Swamp. Sunfish Pond provides boating and fishing. There is also a trail called The **Old Mine Road** that runs along the Delaware River is great for hiking and bicycling. Old Mine Road was the first trade highway in the country. It was built by early Dutch settlers to transport mining ore to New York City.

Worthington State Forest contains a large white-tailed deer population, thanks to the efforts of Charles C. Worthington, former owner of this land. He reintroduced the white-tail to this area. Now, you can hardly go around the corner without spotting one.

Restaurants

The Inn at Millrace Pond (American, Route 519, Hope, ☎ 908-459-4884).
Mattar's Restaurant (Italian/French, 1115 Route 517, Allamuchy, ☎ 908-852-2300).

Accommodations

Allamuchy

The Inn at Panther Valley (Route 517, ☎ 908-852-6000).

Belvidere

Thisillidous Bed & Breakfast (322 Front Street, ☎ 908-475-2274).

Columbia

Days Inn (2 Simpson Avenue, ☎ 908-496-8221).

Delaware

Hunter's Lodge (Highway 46, ☎ 908-475-5119).

Hackettstown

The Everitt House – A Victorian Bed & Breakfast (200 High Street, ☎ 908-684-1307).

Hope

The Inn at Millrace Pond (Route 519, ☎ 908-459-4884).

Independence Township

Econo Court Motel (Highway 46, ☎ 908-637-4176).

Phillipsburg

Clarion Hotel & Conference Center (1314 Highway 22, ☎ 908-454-9771).
Phillipsburg Inn (Highway 22, ☎ 908-454-6461 or 800-555-5952).

Stewartsville

The Olde Town Motel (825 Highway 57, ☎ 908-387-9445).
Stewart Inn (708 South Main Street, ☎ 908-479-6060).

Washington

Broadway Motel (Highway 57, ☎ 908-689-3366).
Mansfield Motel (Highway 57, ☎ 908-689-5335).
Park Hill Motel (2 Hillcrest Avenue, ☎ 908-689-0089).

Shopping

Malls

Phillipsburg Mall (1200 Highway 22, Phillipsburg, ☎ 908-859-1430).

Morris County

Morris County, located in the northern portion of New Jersey, is just westerly enough to also be considered part of the "Skylands" region that also includes Warren and Sussex counties. It is New Jersey's seventh-largest county.

Morris is one of the fastest-growing counties in the state. Situated approximately 30 miles northwest of New York City, Morris manages to blend corporate headquarters and large office complexes with lots of greenery and natural areas. The result is modern business operating in the midst of a bucolic landscape.

Morris was initially part of Hunterdon County. It was separated by an act of the legislature in the late 1730s. Originally, Morris was

much larger than it is now. It also contained the current counties of Sussex and Warren.

During the American Revolution, Morris was a key military region because of its proximity to New York City. Washington's army spent a few winters here, including one notable winter that was in all likelihood harsher than the famous one at Valley Forge.

Morris County Towns	
Boonton Township	Mine Hill
Boonton	Montville
Butler	Morris Township
Chatham	Morristown
Chester	Morris Plains
Convent Station	Mount Arlington
Denville Township	Mount Olive
Dover	Mountain Lakes
East Hanover	Netcong
Florham Park	Parsippany
Harding	Pequannock
Hanover	Randolph
Jefferson Township	Riverdale
Kinnelon	Rockaway
Lincoln Park	Rockaway Township
Long Hill Township	Roxbury
Madison	Victory Gardens
Mendham	Washington Township
Mendham Township	Wharton

Around the turn of the 20th century, millionaires flocked to Morris County because of its proximity to New York City, as well as its natural beauty. They built mansions for themselves, but still went in to the office when necessary. So Morris County became nationally known as a haven for the rich.

If you visit Morris today you won't find many millionaires (at least, not obvious ones), but you will find a delightful variety of things to see and do. History, natural areas, and other attractions await you here.

Best Bets

Morristown National Historic Park (Washington Place, Morristown, ☎ 973-539-2016, www.nps.gov/morr). Dedicated in 1933, this was the first National Historic Park in America. George Washington and his threadbare Continental Army spent a winter here that was just as brutal, if not more so, as the legendary one at Valley Forge. This sacrifice, which occurred during the winter of 1779-80, is commemorated in three different park units: Washington's Headquarters/Historical Museum, Fort Nonsense, and Jockey Hollow. Plan on spending a whole day here to familiarize yourself with the key role Morristown played in the American Revolution – a role that is often ignored by history. Washington's Headquarters during the winter of 1779-80 was in the Jacob Ford Mansion. Fort Nonsense is almost non-existent now.

> ***Historic Fact:*** *How did Fort Nonsense get its rather whimsical name? According to legend, Washington needed something for his men to do so they wouldn't get bored, think about the miserable conditions, and desert. So he had them build a "nonsense" fort – hence the name.*

The real treasure here is **Jockey Hollow**, which contains reconstructed wooden huts that the Continental Army lived in during that bitter winter, as well as a visitor's center. There are also 27 miles of hiking trails to wander about the grounds and think about the sacrifice a handful of freezing men made so that freedom could prevail.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *In Jockey Hollow is an innocent-looking farmhouse where, according to legend, a young girl named Tempe Wick hid her horse to keep it from being appropriated by the British and Continental armies when they were in the area.*

Ford Mansion (30 Washington Place, Morristown, ☎ 973-539-2085, tours at 10, 11, 1, 2, 3, 4, 7; www.nps.gov/morr/morr1). The Ford Mansion is a solidly built and comfortable house that was used by Washington as his headquarters during the terrible encampment at Morristown. As part of a historic tour of Morristown, check out this Colonial home, now run as a museum. Its furnishings are period-accurate, and include such things as the canopied bed that Washington slept in. Think of the officers having elegant dinners in the house, and then think of the foot soldiers eating a few scraps of frozen bread in sub-zero temperatures, and you'll be amazed that there remained enough of an army to fight the British and win the war.

Great Swamp (152 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, ☎ 973-452-1222, www.greatswamp.org). In the late 1950s, this primitive area left over from the last Ice Age almost became an airport. But local opposition stopped it in an incredible David vs. Goliath story. Today this region has become a 7,500-acre natural wilderness area in the federal system. If you like undeveloped, unspoiled nature, this is the place for you.

Great Swamp is a direct descendant of Glacial Lake Passaic, which was formed when the gigantic glaciers of the last Ice Age retreated thousands of years ago. This lake subsequently drained into other outlets, creating numerous rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps throughout New Jersey. One of those swamps was Great Swamp.

The eastern half of Great Swamp is a Wilderness Area with over eight miles of walking trails and boardwalks. The western half is a wildlife management area. Both areas are very strict about where you can and can't go. A visit to Great Swamp is much like a trip to an

aunt's house who leaves the plastic covering over the furniture. Look, but don't touch.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Although Great Swamp is a natural wilderness area that people can visit, there are no picnic tables, benches, playground areas, etc. The purpose of the natural wilderness area program is to leave the land in a pristine natural state, without interference from man. So, except for the boardwalk trails, you won't find anything else here. This is not a place to bring the kids for a day of frolicking.*

It's simply amazing how beautiful a swampy woods can be. Going on the boardwalk trails, and then standing absolutely still at any point for several minutes, can sometimes bring even the shyest creatures out of hiding. This is especially true on the boardwalk that crosses a marshy area; stand still and you will almost certainly see turtles poking their heads out from the brackish water to check you out.

Great Swamp is simply good for your soul.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Great Swamp is… well, a swamp. During the warmer weather, typically May through the end of September, it often seems as if every bug imaginable lives here. Wear insect repellent and protective clothing.*

Historic Speedwell (333 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, ☎ 973-540-0211, various buildings open various hours, http://speedwell.org). If all you know about the invention of the telegraph is the name Samuel Morse, then you're neglecting the invaluable contribution of Alfred Vail. It was here at Speedwell that the telegraph was first demonstrated publicly, and the age of electronic communication was born. It was on the second floor of a factory (still present) that they hung wires over nails for their experiments and demonstrations. (The nails are still visible today.) The factory is now a National Historic Landmark, and there are other buildings in the Speedwell Village compound of historic interest as well, including the home of Stephen Vail. This area brings to light the entire story of the invention of the telegraph, and not just the two-line version you got from school textbooks.

Frelinghuysen Arboretum (53 East Hanover Avenue, Morristown, ☎ 973-326-7600, http://parks.morris.nj.us/parks/frelarbmain). This is a place for all nature lovers. It contains some very interesting juxtapositions between fields, woodlands, and formal gardens. One minute you're in a woods and the next you find yourself in a precisely planted garden. Most of the trees and shrubs are labeled, so that you know what you're looking at. The walking trails lead to more than 100 acres of gardens, meadows, and woodlands.

The gardens here are distinct and quite unusual. You can understand their focus from some of their names, such as the Beth Fish Winter Garden or the Elmer O. Lampi Shade Garden.

While you're here, visit the **Colonial Revival House**, built in 1891. It is one of the few unaltered examples of this architectural style.

Fosterfields Living Historical Farm (73 Kahdena Road, Morristown, ☎ 973-326-7645; 10-5, April-October, Wednesday-Saturday; 12-5, Sunday; also open during the first weekend in December for the holidays; http://parks.morris.nj.us/parks/ffmain). "To arms! To arms! Paul Revere's grandson is coming!" Maybe it doesn't have the same *cachet* as the famous "one if by land and two if by sea" cry, but it's true. This farm was purchased in the early 1850s by the grandson of the famous patriot. He built the Willows, which is today the centerpiece of the farm, and can be toured. Even back in its day, the house was considered quite the lavish palace hereabouts. Originally, the farm was occupied by General Henry Knox.

However, the real stars here are the wealthy Foster family (hence the name). When hot carriages instead of hot cars were considered a mark of luxury, the family had three. You can see them and learn much about life here. The farm is a living peek into the past, depicting what farming life was like in the late 19th and early 20th century. It is operated today just as it was then, with the same machinery and tools. There are frequent demonstrations at Fosterfields of old-time activities, such as flower pressing.

Macculloch Hall (45 Macculloch Avenue, Morristown, ☎ 973-538-2404, Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1-4, www.machall.org). Although it's open only limited hours, this museum, in Morristown's National Historic District, is like several museums in one. It depicts the lives of the Macculloch and Miller families, who are both former town residents. It also has an incredible collection of 18th- and 19th-century American and English arts, such as English china, Georgian glass, and furniture by such classic manufacturers as Chippendale. It features the most extensive collection of Thomas Nast material – personal papers, drawings, etc. – available anywhere. Although most of the material is available only to researchers, the museum does strive to always have some type of Nast exhibit for the general public. Finally, there is an extremely attractive garden.

> ***The famous cartoonist**, Thomas Nast, was a Morristown resident for many years. He thought Morristown was far enough from New York City and his enemy, Boss Tweed, to be safe. Nast loved Morristown, and left it only when financial circumstances forced him to take a job as American consul to Ecuador (where he died shortly after he arrived).*

Museum of Early Trades & Crafts (Main Street/Route 124 at Green Village Road, Madison, ☎ 973-377-2982, 10-4, Tuesday-Saturday, 12-4, Sunday, www.rosenet.org/metc). What was life like in New Jersey before the coming of industry? If you want to find out, head to this interesting and extensive museum. Here you'll find hand tools, agriculture implements, household objects, and other things that defined life in the days before industry. There are also exhibits on how tradesmen in various towns collaborated, and a new one on the blacksmith's important role in a community.

Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum (Lake Hopatcong State Park, Landing, ☎ 973-398-2616, www.hopatcong.org/museum). This interesting place is opened only for limited hours, particularly in the summer. Call for details. But make no mistake about it, this is a fascinating facility that contains some unbelievable information. For example, did you know that Lake Hopatcong was the largest lake in New Jersey (before the creation of man-made Round Valley)? Or that it used to be two bodies of water? Or that it used to be a first-rate tourist attraction, with upwards of 40 hotels and rooming houses surrounding it? Or that it contained a forerunner of the modern amusement park, called Bertrand Island? These are just some of the facts that you can find out here. For about 50 years, this area was one of the premiere resorts on the East Coast. The history of this lake is amazing, and you probably won't believe your eyes when you see some of the crowds in the old photos.

Lake Hopatcong State Park (Take exit 28 from Route 80 or follow Route 183 in Netcong, Landing, ☎ 973-398-7010, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). If you're going to go to the historical museum, you might as well go the state park. Lake Hopatcong is no mud puddle; it's nine miles long, and covered by 2,500 acres of water.

Interestingly, the lake was originally created as part of the Morris Canal, a 90-mile waterway that ran from Newark to Phillipsburg. The canal was the primary means of transporting coal, iron and zinc across New Jersey in the mid-19th century. But the use of the railroads as a mode of transport spelled the end of the canal. The historical museum is located in the canal lock-tender's house.

Besides swimming and boating/canoeing on the lake, the park also provides picnic tables, athletic fields, and food concessions. This is a great place for winter sports as well.

Hacklebarney State Park (119 Hacklebarney Road, Chester, ☎ 908-638-6969, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Although less than 1,000 acres, this state park is in Black River gorge, which is incredibly beautiful. It's also quite cool, even in the blazing heat of summer. The result is one of New Jersey's prettiest parks with its own built-in air conditioning.

Ironically, this serene place used to be a mined ore site in the 19th century. In answer to the popular question, "what the heck is a hacklebarney," there are several theories. One is that the word is a combination of several words from the Lenni Lenape Indians. Another is that iron ore workers used to heckle a quick-tempered foreman named Barney. In time, "heckle Barney" became "hacklebarney."

Three rare and endangered plant species live in Hacklebarney State Park: the American ginseng, leatherwood and Virginia pennywort. The park is also a haven for black bears, woodchucks, deer and fox.

The park has the usual park things to do, with picnic tables, a playground area, hunting and fishing. One of the loveliest activities requires almost no effort: just watching the waters of the Black River flowing over and around the boulders in the river bed is a wonderful natural remedy for the stresses of modern day life.

❖ ***Fall Foliage:*** *Hacklebarney State Park is extremely popular in the autumn, when the colorful foliage display is on full view. Sometimes the parking lot fills up rapidly on autumn weekends, and no more cars are allowed in. Plan ahead to avoid disappointment!*

Willowwood Arboretum (300 Longview Road, Chester Township, ☎ 973-326-7600, http://parks.morris.nj.us/parks/wwmain). Further proof that good things come in small packages. The Willowwood Arboretum features 130 acres of rolling farmland that contain approximately 3,500 types of native and exotic plants, many of them rare. A house on the grounds dates from 1792 and contains two small formal gardens. But the pervasive feeling at Willowwood is one of informality. The paths wander around without apparent plan or purpose other than to display the many distinctive types of plants. You leave here with a pleasant sense of serenity.

Mt. Hope Historical Park (Teabo Road/Coburn Road, Rockaway Borough & Township, ☎ 973-326-7600, http://parks.morris.nj.us/parks/mhmain). It wasn't that long ago – 1978 to be exact – that this land finally shut down as a working mine. That ended about 270 years of continuous mining operations in this area. Today, that land has become the Mt. Hope Historical Park, a popular spot for hiking and observing the still-present effects of almost three centuries of mining operations on the landscape. But give nature a fighting chance and she can wipe out man's influences. It's obvious that she's been hard at work here, because these woods are spectacular. If you'd like to find out more about the little-known history of mining in this region, check out the excellent programs offered here.

> ***Warning:*** *There are open mining pits scattered about the park, which makes it imperative that you stay on the marked trails. Do yourself a favor, and obey the rules and regulations. Don't stray!*

The Morris Museum (6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, ☎ 973-971-3700, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10-5; Thursday, 10-8; Sunday, 1-5; www.morrismuseum.org). The location alone, in an old mansion house shaded by large trees that seem to have been here since the dawn of time, makes this museum something special.

The Morris Museum is national in scope. It was one of the first museums in America to be accredited by the American Association of Museums.

Inside are permanent exhibitions on dinosaurs, Native Americans, rocks and minerals, even old toys and dolls that show kids what children used to do for amusement before video games. There is usually a themed art exhibit, as well as special events and programs. The museum features changing exhibitions that are highly unusual. (One, on navigation, makes one wonder how people ever got around in the days before maps, gas stations, and the auto club.)

Restaurants

Attilo's Kitchen (Italian, 278 Diamond Spring Road, Denville, ☎ 973-627-6200).

Black Horse Inn & Pub (American, 1 W. Main Street, Mendham, ☎ 973-543-7300).

Caffé Navona (Italian, 147 Highway 46 West, Rockaway, ☎ 973-627-1606).

Cinque Figlie (Italian, 302 Whippany Road, Whippany, ☎ 973-359-8615).

Divino (Italian, 10 Schuyler Road, Morristown, ☎ 973-682-9339).

Don Pepe II (Spanish, 18 Old Bloomfield Avenue, Pine Brook, ☎ 973-882-6757).

Don Pepe Steak House (Continental, 58 Highway 46 West, Pine Brook, ☎ 973-808-5533).

Eccola (Italian, 1082 Highway 42 West, Parsippany, ☎ 973-334-8211).

Grand Café (French/American, 42 Washington Street, Morristown, ☎ 973-540-9444).

Hunan Taste (Chinese, 67 Bloomfield Avenue, Denville, ☎ 973-625-2782).

Il Capriccio (Italian, 633 Highway 10, Whippany, ☎ 973-884-9175).

Il Mondo Vecchio (Italian, 72 Main Street, Madison, ☎ 973-301-0024).

L'Allegria (Italian, 711 Prospect Street, Madison, ☎ 973-377-6808).

9 Seven 3 (Italian, 176 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, ☎ 973-822-3712).

Pazzo Pazzo (Italian, 74 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, ☎ 973-898-6606).

Pierre's (French, 995 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Harding, ☎ 973-425-1212). Country French bistro.

Plaza Grill (American bistro, 3 Headquarters Plaza, Headquarters Plaza Hotel, Morristown, ☎ 973-898-9100 ext. 2051).

Restaurant Serenade (French/American, 6 Roosevelt Avenue, Chatham, ☎ 973-701-0303).

Rod's Steak and Seafood Grill (American, 1 Convent Road, Convent Station, ☎ 973-539-6666).

Rosemary and Sage (American, 26 Hamburg Turnpike, Riverdale, ☎ 973-616-0606). An interesting wine selection tops off the great food here.

Ruth's Chris Steak House (steak, 1 Hilton Court, Parsippany, ☎ 973-889-1400). Steak served with a New Orleans flair.

Scalini Fedeli (Italian, 63 Main Street, Chatham, ☎ 973-701-9200).

Silver Spring Farm (French, Flanders-Drakestown Road, Flanders, ☎ 973-584-0202). With its quaint country inn location, you'll swear you are in some out-of-the-way restaurant in the French countryside.

Taste of Asia II (Malaysian, 245 Main Street, Chatham, ☎ 973-701-8821).

Tiffany's Restaurant (American barbecue, 231 Speedwell Avenue, Morris Plains, ☎ 973-290-9777).

Tim Schafer's Cuisine (American, 82 Speedwell Avenue, Morristown, ☎ 973-538-3330).

Villa Domenico (Italian, 252 Highway 46 West, Parsippany, ☎ 973-808-9866).

Accommodations

Denville

Hampton Inn - The Inn at Denville (350 Morris Avenue, ☎ 973-664-1050).

Ledgewood

Days Inn (1691 Highway 46 West, ☎ 973-347-5100).

Long Valley

Neighbor House Bed & Breakfast (143 W. Mill Road, ☎ 908-876-3519).

Morristown

Best Western Morristown Inn (270 South Street, ☎ 973-540-1700).

The Madison Hotel (1 Convent Road, ☎ 973-285-1800).

Summerfield Suites by Wyndham-Morristown (194 Park Avenue, ☎ 973-971-0008).

The Westin Morristown (2 Whippany Road, ☎ 973-539-7300).

Mount Arlington

Courtyard by Marriott (15 Howard Boulevard, ☎ 973-770-2000).
Holiday Inn Express & Suites (176 Howard Boulevard, ☎ 973-770-7880).

Parsippany

Days Inn (3159 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-335-0200).
Embassy Suites (909 Parsippany Boulevard, ☎ 973-334-1440).
Hampton Inn (3535 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-263-0095).
Hilton Parsippany (1 Hilton Court, ☎ 973-267-7373).
Holiday Inn (707 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-263-2000).
Howard Johnson Express Inn (625 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-882-8600).
Ramada Limited (949 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-263-0404).
Red Roof Inn (855 Highway 46 East, ☎ 973-334-3737).
Sheraton Parsippany Hotel (199 Smith Road, ☎ 973-515-2000).

Rockaway

Best Western – The Inn at Rockaway (14 Green Pond Road, ☎ 973-625-1200).
Hilton Garden Inn (375 Mount Hope Avenue, ☎ 973-328-0600).

Shopping

Antiques

Historic Chester Village (Chester, ☎ 908-879-4814).
Morristown Antique Center (45 Market Street, Morristown, ☎ 973-734-0900).

Flea Markets

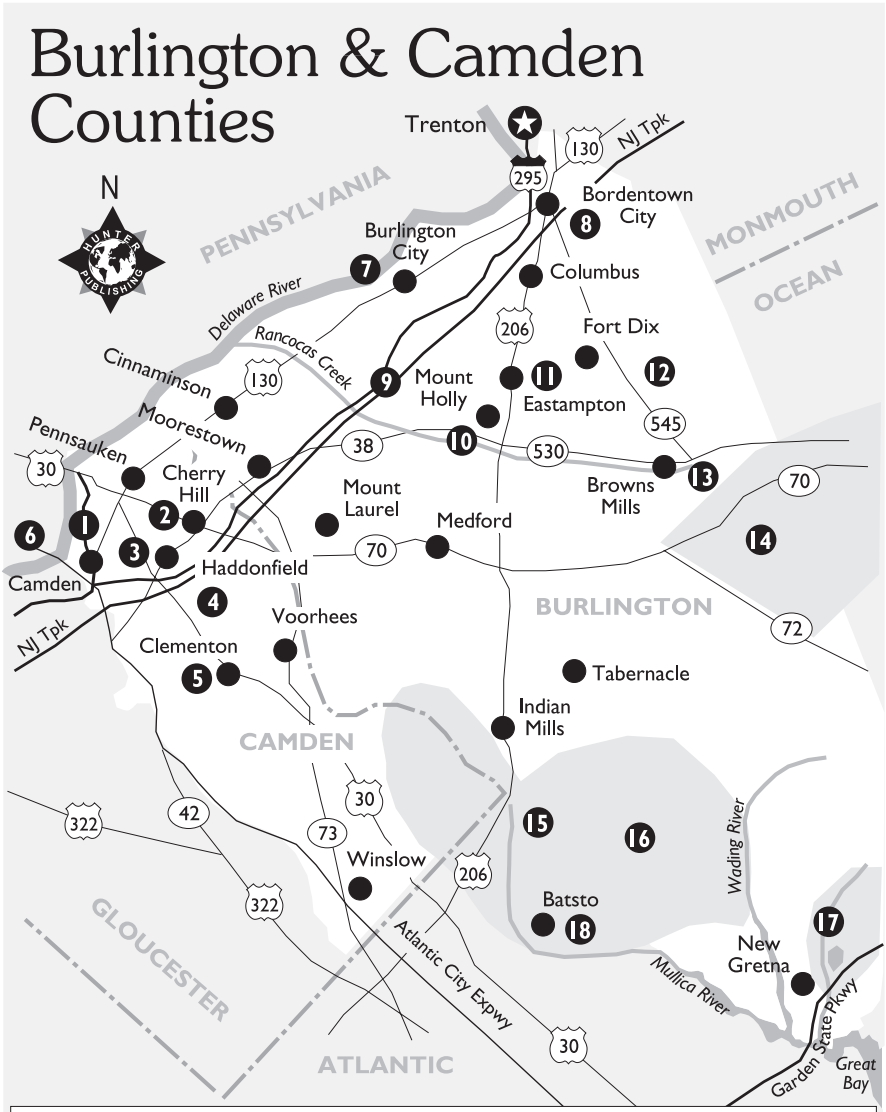
Jefferson Fire Department and Flea Market (Highway 15 South, Lake Hopatcong, ☎ 973-663-5810).

Malls

Rockaway Townsquare (Highway 80 and Mt. Hope Avenue, Rockaway Township, ☎ 973-361-4070).

Shopping Districts

Historic Downtown Morristown (☎ 973-455-1133).
Historic Boonton (☎ 973-402-9410).



1. USS *New Jersey*; New Jersey State Aquarium & Children's Garden; Walt Whitman House
2. Barclay Farmstead; Garden State Discovery Museum
3. Indian King Tavern; Dinosaur Discovery Park
4. Lawnside; Peter Mott House
5. Clementon Amusement Park & Splash World Water Park
6. To Philadelphia
7. Burlington Historical Society; Cooper House; Lawrence House
8. Clara Barton's Schoolhouse; Gilder House; Old City Hall
9. Rancocas State Park; Rankokus Indian Reservation
10. Mill Race Village; Mount Holly Historic Walking Tour; Burlington County Prison Museum
11. Smithville Mansion
12. McGuire Air Force Base; McGuire P-38 Aircraft Memorial; Fort Dix
13. Historic Whitesbog Village
14. Lebanon State Forest
15. Shamong
16. Wharton State Forest
17. Bass River State Forest; Lake Absegami
18. Wharton Mansion; Batsto Sawmill; Grist Mill; General Store; Post Office

NOT TO SCALE

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The Middle Counties

Burlington, Camden, Mercer, Middlesex

These four counties in the middle part of the state, like the Northeastern counties, are not normally thought of as tourist destinations. They don't have the built-in advantage of the Atlantic Ocean on their front doorstep, nor do they have the glorious mountains and green valleys of the Northwestern counties.

But the region has a multitude of extremely enjoyable things to do. You'll find historic sites here that will open your eyes to the history of both the United States and the State of New Jersey, some incredible natural areas where you can explore the beauty of nature, some fun things to do with the kids, and a whole lot more.

Burlington County

Burlington County is New Jersey's largest, stretching all the way from the Delaware River on the western boundary of the state to the Atlantic Ocean on the eastern side.

Burlington County Towns	
Bass River	Medford
Beverly City	Moorestown
Bordentown City	Mount Holly
Bordentown Township	Mount Laurel
Burlington City	New Hanover
Burlington Township	North Hanover
Chesterfield	Palmyra
Cinnaminson	Pemberton Boro
Delanco	Pemberton Township
Delran	Riverside
Eastampton	Township Riverton
Edgewater Park	Shamong
Evesham	Southampton
Fieldsboro	Springfield
Florence	Tabernacle
Hainesport	Washington
Lumberton	Westampton
Mansfield	Willingboro
Maple Shade	Woodland
Medford Lakes	Wrightstown

The sheer size of the county means it has many faces. In built-up areas like Cinnaminson, Willingboro, Burlington City and Mount Holly, Burlington County is the epitome of the modern state, with office complexes, residential developments, and highways. But in the less developed regions, where the woods seem to stretch out endlessly, as in Woodland Township, Tabernacle or Shamong, the county seems to have stepped straight out of the 19th century.

Burlington contains more of the Pinelands than any county. This means that if you want to take a trip through this storied region either on foot or by car, and you're brave enough to face the Jersey Devil if you encounter him (or it), you've got to go through Burlington County.

Otherwise, Burlington offers a variety of things to do, from shopping in the funky small-town atmosphere of Bordentown City to the 19th-century world of Batsto Village.

It's all here in Burlington County – where you might well have a "devil" of a time.

❦ ***The Barrens:*** *Why are the Pinelands more commonly known as the Pine Barrens? It all has to do with the soil, which is sandy and unsuitable for farming. Early settlers grew quite frustrated trying to coax crops from this ground, so they christened the region "barren."*

Best Bets

Batsto (4110 Nesco Road, Wharton State Forest, Hammonton, ☎ 609-561-0024, village tours offered at various times – call for details, www.batstovillage.org). The bucolic Pinelands were once the source of a mighty industrial product called bog iron, and before coal was discovered in Pennsylvania, it was king. Many important items in the Colonial era and afterwards were made of iron that came out of Batsto.

But the discovery of Pennsylvania coal ended the importance of Batsto and other Pinelands bog iron towns, and it was only the appearance of millionaire Joseph Wharton in 1876 that breathed new life into this virtually abandoned community after a stab at glass production didn't work out. Wharton built a sawmill, cleared the land, planted cranberries and other crops, and ran Batsto as a forest products/agricultural business and gentleman's farm until his death in 1909.

You can get a taste of what it was like living and working in the era when Wharton ran things at the restored village of Batsto. There are over 30 structures to look at; many of them are worker's houses. You can enter some of them and see how the occupants lived back then.

The town includes a sawmill, gristmill, general store, post office, and other buildings. Each has its own unique pleasures to discover. For example, the post office is one of the few places in America that still hand-cancels letters. You might discover some long-forgotten brands in the general store. You can wander through Batsto on your own, rediscovering a forgotten part of history at your own pace. It's pleasant just to sit by the lake and reflect on times gone by.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Although Batsto covers some of the same historical area as Allaire in Monmouth County, it is not the same. Batsto does not have costumed interpreters at all buildings, and there are many more buildings in Batsto to explore.*

Batsto is in Wharton State Forest, which is the largest state forest in the New Jersey system. The park provides a plethora of things to do, including camping, canoeing, hiking, and swimming.

A trip to Batsto is not complete without a visit to the Italianate-style **Wharton Mansion** in the upper portion of town. Although there's a fee for touring the house, the cost is nominal compared to the wealth of information you'll receive about Joseph Wharton and Batsto from the tour guide who leads you through more than a dozen rooms of the still-magnificent old home.

Whitesbog Village (120-13 Whitesbog Road, Browns Mills, ☎ 609-893-4646, www.whitesbog.org). Here's a place that not too many people know about – although they should. Historic Whitesbog Village, as it's formally known, is devoted to the history of blueberries and cranberries. The state is in the top five in cranberry production.

But Whitesbog is much more than just berries. It holds numerous festivals, such as the Blueberry Festival, organize cranberry harvesting tours, has interpretive programs, a nature trail, hiking paths, fishing, a company town to explore, bike riding… all in all, a full and busy destination, with something for just about everyone in your family.

Blueberries

It may sound incredible, considering their popularity, but blueberries owe their acceptance and use today entirely to one woman: Whitesbog resident Elizabeth Coleman White.

In the early 1900s, Elizabeth White and her father were searching for a companion crop to the cranberry, one that would grow well in the sandy, acidic soil of the Pinelands.

White settled on the blueberry, which at the time grew only wild. She spent years collecting wild blueberry bushes from the region and cross-pollinating them, trying to develop a berry that was sweet and juicy. Finally, after countless hours and staining her fingertips a permanent blue, White successfully developed and marketed the first cultivated blueberry in history. Single-handedly, she had started a whole new industry. She continued her research into blueberries until her death in 1954. White was a remarkable woman, and one whose story can be found at Whitesbog.

Rankokus Indian Reservation (Rancocus, Westampton Township, ☎ 609-261-4747, www.powhatan.org). New Jersey will never be mistaken for part of the Old West. But it is a diverse and unique state, and that's why it's not surprising that it contains the Rankokus Indian Reservation.

Officially recognized as an American Indian Nation, Rankokus is a serious and sensitive attempt to educate and enlighten the non-Indian community about the traditions, beliefs and culture of the Powhatan Renape Nation. They hold numerous festivals and events here, such as the North American Hoop Dancing Championship and the American Indian Arts Festival. In addition, the reservation contains a museum that provides a fascinating look at American Indian culture.

❖ ***Tip:*** *The reservation is not a 9-5, 24-hour tourist attraction. The museum in particular is open only during specific hours. Call first to check on dates and times.*

Smithville Mansion (Meade Lane, Eastampton, ☎ 609-265-5068 or 609-261-3780, www.co.burlington.nj.us/dept/culture/Smithville). A work in progress, this county park is still under development, and tours of this Southern-plantation-style mansion are available only at limited times. But if you can, try to get here during the operational season. A tour of the house itself, with its magnificent rooms, fabulous columns and rolling lawn, is worth a trip.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Smithville Mansion offers Victorian Christmas tours during December. To see this fabulous house all decked out in its Christmas finery is quite impressive.*

Smithville was once a self-contained industrial village known as Shreveville that made cotton cloth, with a manor house, factories, a church, and other buildings. But then it was purchased by Hezekiah Bradley Smith (who renamed it "Smithville") and it became a machinery production center. The town produced approximately 150 different styles of machines; at one point one-quarter of the United States' woodworking machinery was manufactured at Smithville.

In the 1970s it was purchased by Burlington County as its first park.

The Bicycle Railway

We all know that trains ride on tracks, but bicycles? Yes, indeed, during the late 19th century, a resident of Smithville named Arthur Hotchkiss invented the unique bicycle railway. It was used to carry commuting Smith Company employees from Mount Holly to the town. The bicycle railway

resembled a rail fence upon which sat specially built bicycles. The rider sat between two wheels, working the pedals up and down, rather than the circular motion that modern bicycles employ. A third wheel was used to press against the bottom rail and keep the bicycle balanced.

Unfortunately, since just one track was built, when two bicycles traveling in opposite directions came face-to-face, one had to pull off the railing to let the other pass. But that was just one problem. What about a fast cyclist encountering a slow one? If the slow cyclist didn't pull off and let the other pass, the fast cyclist was out of luck. Now you know why the innovative bicycle railway never caught on.

Burlington County Prison Museum (128 High Street, Mount Holly, ☎ 609-265-5858, www.burlco.lib.nj.us/county/PrisonMuseum.html). This is not an attraction that appeals to everyone. However, this foreboding structure is a National Historic Landmark that is open limited hours for self-guided tours. Completed in 1811 by Robert Mills, one of the first American-born architects and the architect of the Washington Monument, the building itself is of interest because it reflects the growing sense at the time that maybe prisons could be used for rehabilitation of inmates instead of just places to lock people away from the rest of society. Thus, the cells were built to contain fireplaces and other "luxuries."

The prison was built so well that it remained in use until 1965, by which time it had become the oldest continuously used prison in the US. Another historical curiosity is that this building may be the first fireproof building in the US.

The museum consists of three floors of jail cells to explore, with explanatory plaques scattered about. There is also a courtyard to wander around.

Bordentown City. For a small community, this little town ("city" is a misnomer) is quite impressive. First and foremost, the downtown area has a wealth of small, private shops to explore. Secondly, Bordentown City is incredibly historic. It was the home of Thomas Paine and Francis Hopkinson, famous Revolutionary War figures, and a host of other notables. Bordentown City is also the site of **Clara Barton's Schoolhouse**. This is a small brick building that is still standing, and was one of the first public schools in New Jersey. (Yes, it's *the* Clara Barton. Long before she founded the American Red Cross, she was a teacher.) To tour the Barton schoolhouse, however, you have to make special arrangements, since it's not usually open. It's the same with the other historic buildings; usually you can

just get a peek at the outside, since many of them are in private use. However, the **Gilder House** and **Old City Hall** (headquarters of the Historical Society) can be toured inside. Pick up a walking tour brochure at Old City Hall and you're off.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *Bordentown probably has more famous former citizens per square foot than any town in the United States. Besides Paine, Hopkinson, and Barton, Bordentown was also the home of Patience Lovell Wright, popularly known as the first American sculptor to use wax as her medium of choice. According to legend, she was also a spy. Unfortunately, there's no museum or other site honoring the many famous Bordentown residents.*

Bass River State Forest (762 Stage Road, New Gretna, ☎ 609-296-1114, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Deep within the Pinelands is Bass River State Forest, a 25,000-acre wilderness area that provides a wealth of outdoor activities for the nature lover.

The heart of the forest's recreational activities is **Lake Absegami**, a 67-acre lake created in the 1920s. Here you can swim (in season), boat or canoe in the serenity of nature. A hiking trail through the **Absegami Natural Area** takes you through a pine/oak woods and a small Atlantic white cedar bog.

Bass River State Forest also contains 178 campsites, picnic tables, and a playground area for kids.

Within the forest is a 50-mile section of the **Batona Trail**, the famous hiking highway. The trail passes through peaceful wooded areas that were once bustling bog iron towns. Bass River State Forest also contains the 3,830-acre **West Pine Plains Natural Area**. This is a truly unique stunted forest ecosystem, known locally as the Pygmy Forest. It contains pine and oak trees that grow only four feet high. New Jersey contains the largest acreage of this forest type in the world.

Historical Museums (Burlington City, ☎ 609-386-0200 or 609-386-4773, www.tourburlington.org). Burlington City is one of the most historic towns in New Jersey. Not only does it contain numerous structures of note, but it also can claim several very historically important residents. These include Oliver Cromwell, an African-American Revolutionary War soldier who fought with Washington, James Fenimore Cooper, America's first novelist, and War of 1812 hero James Lawrence, who uttered the immortal words "Don't give up the ship!" In fact, the Lawrence and Cooper houses are right next to each other, and run as museums. Three other historic homes make up the museum complex. Contact the **Burlington Historical Society** for visitation hours: ☎ 262-767-2884, www.burlingtonhistory.org.

The **Cooper House**, at 457 High Street, http://08016.com/cooper-house.html, contains artifacts from when Joseph Bonaparte lived at nearby Bordentown. You can also take a walking tour of the town's Historic District.

> ***Remarkable Fact:*** *The first public library in America to have its own building was located in Burlington City.0. It began in 1757, when the parlor of Thomas Rodman on High Street served as the city's library. William Franklin, son of Benjamin and the last royal governor of New Jersey, was the first to take out a book.*

Mount Holly (Mount Holly, www.mountholly.com). Mount Holly offers a self-guiding historic walking tour that includes over a dozen stops, including the site of the oldest continuously active volunteer fire company in the US. Pick up a "Historic Walking Tour" brochure in one of the stores or at City Hall and you're ready to go. The town has recently been sprucing up the downtown area as well, to make it more attractive to tourists.

Restaurants

Allen's Clam Bar (seafood, Highway 9, New Gretna, ☎ 609-296-4106).

Avion Restaurant (International, 60 Fostertown Road, Medford, ☎ 609-267-8787). Watching the planes while eating is really kind of nifty! Known for their fabulous Sunday brunch.

Beau Rivage Restaurant (French, 128 Tauton Boulevard, Medford, ☎ 856-983-1999). If you went to France, it would be hard to find a French restaurant as good as this one. Great wine list!

Big Ed's BBQ (American, 259 Route 130, Burlington, ☎ 609-387-3611). Known as the home of "the best ribs in New Jersey."

Black Swan (American, Highway 38 & Ark Road, Larchmont Shopping Center, Mount Laurel, ☎ 856-866-0019). Besides the great food, the atmosphere of water and swans is very peaceful.

Blue Claw Seafood & Crab Eatery (seafood, 1101 Route 130 North, Burlington Township, ☎ 609-387-3700). Plenty of napkins are needed at this crab eatery.

Braddock's Tavern (American, 39 South Main Street, Medford, ☎ 609-654-1604). Winner of numerous top restaurant awards, Braddock's in historic Medford combines it all: cuisine, décor, service, and everything else that you need for a fine dining experience.

Café Society (American, Highway 73, Marlton, ☎ 856-596-8300).

Charley's Other Brother (American, 1383 Monmouth Road, Eastampton Township, ☎ 609-261-1555). Good food and a huge wine list featuring almost 400 selections.

Elephant and Castle (English pub, 1450 Highway 70, Marlton, ☎ 856-427-0427). If you have a hankering for fish and chips, shepherd's pie, and that sort of thing, this is the place to go.

The Farnsworth House Restaurant (Italian, 135 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown City, ☎ 609-291-9232).

Food for Thought (American, 129 Marlton Crossing, Marlton, ☎ 856-797-1126). It's health-conscious to the point of not even using aluminum pots; you can't go wrong here.

Fuji (Japanese, 404 Route 130 North, Cinnaminson, ☎ 856-829-5211).

La Familia Sonsini (Italian/New Orleans, 202 Old Marlton Pike, Medford, ☎ 609-654-5217).

Library II (steakhouse, Highway 73, Marlton, ☎ 856-424-0198). Just as good as the other Library locations, and throw in a superb salad bar.

Mastoris Restaurant Diner (American/Italian/Greek, Routes 206 & 130, Bordentown, ☎ 609-298-4650). A popular dining spot that has justifiably gained fame far beyond the local area. Great pastries too!

The Pacific Grille (eclectic, 1200 S. Church Street & Academy Drive, Village II Shopping Center, Mount Laurel, ☎ 856-778-0909). Is it a seafood restaurant, a pasta place, or what? Just call its menu eclectic and enjoy!

The Tabernacle Inn (eclectic, 1488 Route 206, Tabernacle, ☎ 609-268-1060). The building's design looks like someone forgot that this is the Pinelands, not a trendy ski resort. But the food more than makes up for it.

Thai Orchid Restaurant (Thai, 147 Highway 73 South, Marlton Crossing Shopping Center, Marlton, ☎ 856-985-5300). Classic Thai food at its finest.

Tulipano Nero (Italian, 3747 Church Road, Mount Laurel, ☎ 856-235-6955).

White Rose Café (International, 515 Highway 73 South, Marlton, ☎ 856-810-2000).

Accommodations

Bordentown

Best Western Inn (1068 Route 206 South, ☎ 609-298-8000).

Comfort Inn (1009 Route 206 North, ☎ 609-298-9111).

Days Inn (Exit 7 NJTPK, Route 206, ☎ 609-298-6100).

Fernbrook Bed and Breakfast (142 Georgetown Road, ☎ 609-298-3868).

Ramada Inn (1083 Route 206 North, ☎ 609-298-3200).

Mount Holly

Best Western Burlington Inn (2020 Route 541, ☎ 609-261-3800).

Mount Laurel

Courtyard by Marriott (1000 Century Parkway, ☎ 856-273-4400).

Doubletree Guest Suites Motel (515 Fellowship Road, ☎ 856-778-8999).

Fairfield Inn By Marriott (350 Century Parkway, ☎ 856-642-0600).
Hampton Inn (5000 Crawford Place, ☎ 856-778-5535).
Mcintosh Inn (1132 Highway 73 South, ☎ 856-234-7194).
Radisson Hotel (915 Highway 73 North, ☎ 856-234-7300).
Red Roof Inn (603 Fellowship Road, ☎ 856-234-5589).
Summerfield Suites Hotel (3000 Crawford Place, ☎ 856-222-1313).
Wyndham (1111 Highway 73 North, ☎ 856-234-7000).

Medford

Main Stay Bed and Breakfast (45 South Main Street, Route 541, ☎ 609-654-7528).

Moorestown

The Victorian Lady (301 West Main Street, ☎ 856-235-4988).

Pemberton

Issac Hilliard House Bed & Breakfast (31 Hanover Street, ☎ 888-371-0756).

Westampton

Hampton Inn (2024 Route 541, ☎ 609-702-9888).
Holiday Inn Express & Suites (18 Western Drive, ☎ 609-702-5800).

Shopping

Flea Markets

Columbus Farmer's Market (Route 206 South, Columbus, ☎ 609-267-0400).

Malls

Burlington Center (2501 Mount Holly Road, Route 541, Burlington Township, ☎ 609-387-8300).
Moorestown Mall (400 Route 38, Moorestown, ☎ 856-231-4444).

Shopping Districts

Historic Medford Village (Medford, ☎ 609-714-8811).
The Mill Race Village (11 White Street, Mount Holly, ☎ 609-267-0508).

- ***Tip:*** *Mill Race Village in Mount Holly schedules special events throughout the year, like a "fire & ice" festival (chili cook-off and ice sculpture contest), Christmas in July, and a witches' ball.*

Rancocas Woods Village of Shops (Creek Road, Rancocas Woods, ☎ 856-235-1830).

> ***Shopping Alert:*** *The original* ***Burlington Coat Factory****, where the well-known chain got its start, is on Route 130 in Burlington.*

Camden County

Camden County Towns	
Audubon	**Hi-Nella**
Audubon Park	**Laurel Springs**
Barrington	**Lawnside**
Bellmawr	**Lindenwold**
Berlin	**Magnolia**
Berlin Township	**Merchantville**
Brooklawn	**Mount Ephraim**
Camden	**Oaklyn**
Cherry Hill Township	**Pennsauken**
Chesilhurst	**Pine Hill**
Clementon	**Pine Valley**
Collingswood	**Runnemede**
Gibbsboro	**Somerdale**
Gloucester City	**Stratford**
Gloucester Township	**Tavistock**
Haddon Heights	**Voorhees**
Haddon Township	**Waterford**
Haddonfield	**Winslow**
Woodlynne	

Camden County, tucked along the Delaware River, was once part of its southern neighbor Gloucester County, until it split off in 1844. Both the county and its most prominent city were named after Englishman Charles Pratt, the Earl of Camden. Unlike many of his contemporaries, Pratt supported the American drive for independence.

Camden the city really started to grow in the 1830s, when the railroad came to town. The city's growth took the rest of the county along with it. The most famous resident of both the city and county in the late 19th century was the celebrated poet Walt Whitman, who is buried in an impressive-looking tomb in Camden, where he spent the last eight years of his life.

Camden gained a reputation as an industrial powerhouse in the early 20th century, as the city was home to such companies as RCA and Campbell Soup. And, for everyone who still remembers them, the drive-in movie theater was invented in Camden County.

Although the city of Camden fell on hard times in the later part of the 20th century, it has come roaring back to life thanks to such attractions as the New Jersey State Aquarium, the Camden Riversharks minor league baseball team, the Battleship *New Jersey*, and more. In fact, Camden County itself is full of interesting things to do, from the

historic Indian King Tavern to the somewhat historic Cherry Hill Mall.

So, although it may not be the first place that jumps to mind, Camden County is well worth a look.

❦ ***Lawnside*** *in Camden County is the only African-American incorporated municipality in the northern United States. It dates back to Colonial times. You can find out more by visiting the town's Historic District and, in particular, the Peter Mott House, which was a station on the Underground Railroad.*

Best Bets

New Jersey State Aquarium (1 Riverside Avenue, Camden, ☎ 856-365-3300, September 16-April 15, weekdays, 9:30-4:30, weekends, 10-5; April 16-September 15, daily, 9:30-5:30, www.njaquarium.org). When it first opened, this aquarium was jammed with visitors, and proclaimed the savior of Camden. But, since it was all by itself on the waterfront without any other destinations around, the savior quickly became the "savee" as attendance plummeted. Then it got its act together, reinvented itself with new exhibits and interesting new fish, and attendance went up again.

If you've never seen the aquarium, or saw it when it first opened, you owe it to yourself to visit. There are approximately 80 exhibits here, with 5,000 fish and over 800 species. The bottom floor is set up to replicate the exploration of a sunken ship, while the top consists of straight-on displays. But remaining as the centerpiece of the whole aquarium is the gigantic 760,000-gallon tank in the center – still one of the largest in the world.

Young ones have the unique **Children's Garde**n in front, where different plants are formed into unique shapes that encourage children to interact with them. A place for kids to literally run through nature, the Children's Garden adds an extra "oomph" to the aquarium, and an extra reason to visit.

❖ ***Tip:*** *The New Jersey State Aquarium and the Whitman House are right down the road from one another. If you're planning to visit one, you can easily see both in the same day. Tell the little ones that after all this historical stuff, they're going to see fish!*

Walt Whitman House (328 Mickle Boulevard, Camden, ☎ 856-964-5383). Just down the road from the aquarium on Mickle Boulevard is the home of the world-famous poet Walt Whitman. A knowledgeable guide takes you on a tour of the six-room home, where Whitman lived

for about the last eight years of his life. It contains his personal belongings, rare old photographs, letters – even the death notice that was posted when he died. Not an all-day destination, certainly, but an enjoyable and important piece of history.

> ❦ ***The Tomb Won:*** *Whitman is also buried in Camden, at nearby Harleigh Cemetery, in a fortress-like tomb. According to legend, Whitman would visit the tomb site often as it was under construction, checking on the progress and reading the workmen scraps of his poetry. As the poet's health steadily failed, it became a macabre race to see which would happen first – the completion of his tomb or Whitman's death. The tomb won.*

Haddonfield is a funky little town with old-world charm that few people know about. Shopping, browsing, and just walking around are all fun in tree-lined Haddonfield.

> ❦ ***Founded by a Woman:*** *Haddonfield was founded by Elizabeth Haddon and is possibly the only Colonial town in America to be founded by a woman. Not one to bite her tongue, Haddon boldly proposed marriage to Quaker missionary John Estaugh (he accepted) at a time when most women were supposed to be quiet and demure. The whole story is the basis for Longfellow's* The Theologian's Tale from Tales of A Wayside Inn.

Indian King Tavern (233 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, ☎ 609-429-6792, Wednesday-Friday, 10 am to noon and 1 to 4, Saturday, 10 to noon and 1 to 4, Sunday, 1 to 4). You can be forgiven if you break out into a chorus of "Happy Birthday" when you enter this building, because many people consider it the place where the state of New Jersey was born. One of the most historic buildings in New Jersey, the Indian King Tavern is where the colony of New Jersey met during the American Revolution and voted to replace the word "colony" with "state" in all official documents. In the early years of the 20th century, this building became New Jersey's first historic site. A guided tour takes you into several rooms of the building. Note that all of the furnishings are reproductions, painstakingly produced by a handful of dedicated volunteers.

> ❖ ***Tip:*** *The Indian King Tavern has been undergoing restoration and renovations. Call before heading over there to get an update on the current status.*

Clementon Amusement Park & Splash World Water Park (144 Berlin Road, Clementon, ☎ 856-783-0263, hours are seasonal so call for details, www.clementonpark.com). Set on the shores of a pictur-

esque lake, the amusement area is not as big as a typical modern mega-amusement park, but it's just as enjoyable. Clementon is one of those older parks that has managed to retain its grace and charm with lots of modern attractions while moving into the 21st century .

USS *New Jersey* (Camden Waterfront, ☎ 856-966-1652, open April 1 to September 30, 9-5, October 1 to March 31, 9-3, www.battleshipnewjersey.org). It was a long, hard struggle, but the Battleship *New Jersey* – the most decorated battleship in the country – is now permanently moored on the Camden Riverfront. It's a floating museum, and an incredibly uplifting experience for anyone who wants to find out why this country is so great. The USS *New Jersey* is one of the largest battleships ever built. A guided tour takes approximately two hours, and is extremely detailed. Seeing this huge ship peacefully astride the Delaware River is an unbelievable sight – it's truly massive!

Dinosaur Discovery Park (Maple Avenue, Haddonfield, ☎ 856-429-7375, www.hadrosaurus.com). It's not a very big place, and there's nothing really to do here except read a few plaques and sit in the shade. But this tiny park tucked away at the end of a street gets many visitors from other countries. Why? Because this is the place where the first nearly complete dinosaur skeleton in the entire world was discovered back in the 1850s. It may be hard to believe, but before this dinosaur skeleton was found, the idea of giant creatures that had once walked the earth millions of years before man was considered suspect. So it was in this tiny park that the entire science of studying dinosaurs was born.

❖ ***Tip:*** *The Dinosaur Discovery Park is hard to find. There are no signs, and it is located at the end of a residential street – Maple Avenue.*

Cherry Hill Mall (2000 Highway 38, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-662-7440, open Monday-Saturday, 10-9:30, Sunday, 11-6, www.cherryhillmall.com). Why is a mall listed among the best bets for the county? Because this particular mall is historic, in a sense. The Cherry Hill Mall was the first enclosed shopping center east of the Mississippi River. When it opened on October 11, 1961, it ushered in a new era of enclosed shopping convenience. People came from hundreds of miles away to marvel at the giant indoor trees, the tropical birds flying around, and the sheer size of the structure, not to mention the fact that they could shop in climate-controlled comfort no matter what the weather.

Today the mall is not quite the center of attention that it used to be, but it still contains approximately 160 stores and provides a pleasant shopping experience. If you go, think of the history behind the place.

Barclay Farmstead (209 Barclay Lane, Cherry Hill, ☎ 609-795-6225, open Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, www.barclayfarmstead.org). Busy and bustling retail haven Cherry Hill is the last place that you would expect to find a living history farm recreating the early 19th century, but Barclay Farm is full of surprises.

If you visit Barclay Farm you can tour the early 19th-century mansion that is the centerpiece of the farm, as well as a kitchen garden, corn crib, a barn, community gardens, and other sites. There is also a nature trail that leads to the nearby creek. The farm hosts a bevy of special programs, and sometimes has guides in period dress to heighten the living history experience. A fun place for all concerned, and invaluable window on the past.

Garden State Discovery Museum (2040 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-424-1233, Tuesday-Sunday, 9:30 to 5:30, Saturday, 9:30 to 8:30, October through May, www.discoverymuseum.com). Take your kids to the Garden State Discovery Museum, which features nearly a dozen different hands-on exhibit areas for kids up to age 12 or so. They will simply love it here, messing around in such displays as "Bubble Trouble," "Vet and Pet," "Down the Shore, "Fruit Stand." As you can tell from the descriptions, each has a special theme, and the way the exhibits are set up, kids can't help but learn something as they play and have a good time. For example, "Bubble Trouble" teaches about surface tension and how bubbles are formed. In the "New Jersey Diner," kids can make hamburgers and other diner fare. The "Down the Shore" exhibit lets kids fish from a boat. There's also a rock-climbing wall, a theater, and much more.

Collingswood Park Auction Market (Intersection of Highways 33 and 34, Wall Township, ☎ 732-938-7941; usually open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Collingswood is like Englishtown (see page 13), only smaller. There are bargains to be had here, but plan to arrive early to get the good stuff. It can be really hot here by middle of the day, with the sun beating down on your head.

Restaurants

A Little Café (International, 118 White Horse Road, Voorhees, ☎ 856-784-3344). The menu changes seasonally, but one thing that doesn't change is the fabulous signature dishes, like rack of lamb.

Andreotti's Viennese Café (French/Italian, 1442 East Route 70, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-795-2233). Interesting blend of foods and a cheese spread voted best by a local magazine.

Anthony's (Italian, 512 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, ☎ 856-310-7766).

Chez Elena Wu (Chinese, Voorhees, ☎ 856-566-3222). Popular favorite, serving all those Chinese dishes that you love.

Emerald Fish (seafood, 65 Barclay Farms Shopping Center, Highway 70 East, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-616-9192). It may be a casual place, but there's nothing casual about the awards it has won.

Giumarello's (Italian, 512 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, ☎ 609-547-9303).

La Champagne (French, 312 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-429-7647). Award-winning, relaxed atmosphere.

Mélange Café (Creole/Cajun, 1601 Chapel Avenue, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-663-7339). Interesting menu and has its own cookbook.

Mikado (Japanese, 2320 Marlton Pike Highway 70 West, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-665-4411). You don't have to go to Japan to find fine Japanese food.

Remi's Café (Italian/American, 141 King's Highway East, Haddonfield, ☎ 856-795-7232).

Sagami (Japanese, 37 Crescent Boulevard, Collingswood, ☎ 856-854-9773).

Siri's Thai French Cuisine (Thai/French, 2117-9 Highway 70 West, Track Town Shopping Center, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-663-6781). Award-winning food in a remarkable combination.

Steak 38 (steakhouse, 515 Highway 38, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-665-4090). Excellent steakhouse that used to be unknown, but its reputation is spreading by word-of-mouth.

Tavola dei Amici (Italian, 1603 Kings Highway North & Highway 70, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-616-1600). Italian food served in both new and familiar styles.

Accommodations

Cherry Hill

Clarion Hotel (1450 Highway 70 East, ☎ 856-428-2300).

Days Inn (525 Highway 38 East, ☎ 856-663-0100).

Hilton (2349 West Marlton Pike, ☎ 856-665-6666).

Holiday Inn (Highway 70 & Sayer Avenue, ☎ 856-663-5300).

Inn of the Dove (725 Cuthbert Road, ☎ 856-488-2323).

Residence Inn (1821 Old Cuthbert Road, ☎ 856-429-6111).

Haddonfield

Haddonfield Inn (44 West End Avenue, ☎ 856-428-2195).

Voorhees

Hampton Inn (121 Laurel Oak Road, Voorhees Corporate Center, ☎ 856-346-4500).

Shopping

Malls

Cherry Hill Mall (2000 Highway 38, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-662-7440).
Echelon Mall (1285 Echelon Mall, Voorhees, ☎ 856-772-1950).

Shopping Districts

Haddonfield (☎ 856-216-7253).

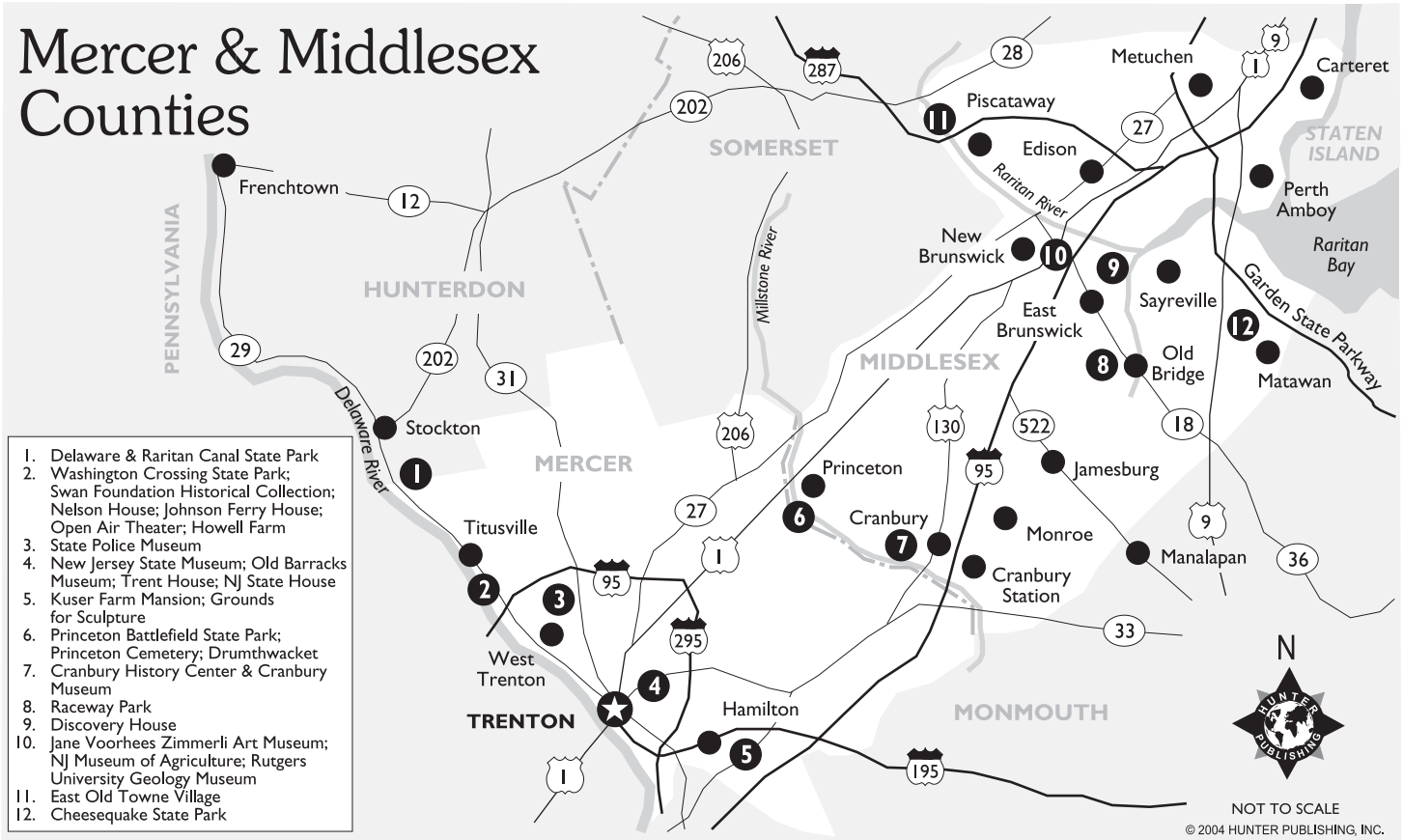
Mercer County

Mercer County Towns	
East Windsor	Pennington
Ewing Township	Princeton
Hamilton Township	Princeton Township
Hightstown	Trenton
Hopewell	Washington Township
Hopewell Township	West Windsor Township
Lawrence Township	

Mercer County is New Jersey's "capital county" and location of the historic city of Trenton. In a very real sense, Mercer is the birthplace of the United States of America, at Washington Crossing State Park. If Washington's desperate gambit had not worked against the Hessians on a cold December night, who knows what would have happened to the 13 colonies' faltering bid for independence?

Mercer County is named for General Hugh Mercer, a Revolutionary War hero who died at the Battle of Princeton. Mercer County did not become an official entity until 1838. Over the years the county has witnessed many famous events. However, none have been more famous – or infamous – than Orson Welles' "Martian" invasion in 1938. The "aliens" supposedly landed in the Grovers Mill section of Mercer County, now part of West Windsor Township.

If you visit Mercer County today you probablywon't find any aliens, but you will discover a pleasant variety of things to do. Trenton contains several interesting sites, including a planetarium, a unique sculpture park, the history-drenched Washington Crossing State Park, and numerous other places that are both intriguing and unusual. As befits a "capital county," Mercer is a "capital" place to visit!



Mercer County

Best Bets

Kuser Farm Mansion (2090 Greenwood Avenue, Hamilton Township, ☎ 609-890-3630; open May-November, Thursday through Sunday, 11-3; weekends only February-April). This was the summer home and grounds of gentleman-farmer Frederick Kuser, who in the early 20th century helped William Fox found a motion picture studio that later became 20th-Century Fox. The Kusers also manufactured the Walter automobile during the dawn of the automotive age. The grounds have been whittled down by development until they're a fraction of their former size (22 acres out of the original 70), but it is still an enjoyable park with a funky gazebo.

It's the Queen Anne-style house, known popularly as Kuser Farm Mansion, that makes this place unique. It's a large, rambling structure, and a guided tour takes you through two floors and 17 of the 22 rooms. The house contains period furnishings, and a lot of information about the Kuser family, who were quite prominent in New Jersey and American history.

- ***Victorian Christmas:*** *Kuser Farm Mansion holds a Victorian Christmas celebration in late November/early December that has to be seen to be believed. Crowds come from other states just to see the display, which is different each year. The entire mansion is decked out in Victorian finery, and quite a sight to behold. Calling in advance is wise, and coming early and being prepared to wait is even wiser.*

New Jersey State Museum (205 West State Street, Trenton, ☎ 609-292-6464, Tuesday-Saturday, 9-4:45, Sunday, 12-5, www.state.nj.us/state/museum). A very good museum just down the street from the State House, and one of the first in the country to be founded for educational purposes. It contains four floors of exhibits, as well as a planetarium, which offers a continually changing series of programs that explore and explain the solar system. Call to find out the theme of the current program. There is a small charge for tickets, but it's worth it.

The planetarium is only one of the highlights at the museum, which revolves around archeology/ethnology, cultural history, fine art, and natural history. If you want to see dinosaur skeletons, view Native American artifacts, or learn all about shells, then this is the place for you. You could spend several hours exploring.

Washington Crossing State Park (355 Washington Crossing-Pennington Road, Titusville, ☎ 609-737-0623, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Almost three-quarters of the American Revolution was fought in New Jersey. Nowhere was it fought more desperately than in this area, where George Washington and his rag-tag band of Colonial soldiers landed on a frigid Christmas night in 1776, and

went on to fight the battle of Trenton, a struggle that turned the American Revolution around. Here is a vast open space of nearly 1,000 acres where people year-round soak up some rays, commune with nature, learn a bit of history, or just relax. Fishing, picnicking, hiking, and horseback riding are some of the things to do here. This is also a superb place for winter activities, like cross-country skiing. Washington Crossing State Park has a companion park of the same name just across the river in Pennsylvania.

But as you might imagine, given the park's historical significance, nature is not the only thing to enjoy here. For openers, there's the **Swan Foundation Historical Collection**, which features over 700 objects from the 1740s to the 1780s that depict the Colonial era leading up to the Revolution, and the Revolution itself. Hours are limited, so call ☎ 609-737-9303 for further information.

There's also the **Nelson House**, located in the park right off Highway 29. Operated by the Washington Crossing Association of New Jersey throughout the summer, the Nelson House contains a small museum that contains historical information about the famous crossing.

And just when you thought it was safe to go back into nature, the park provides yet another historical detour. This is the **Johnson Ferry House** and, unlike many other locations, it's probable that Washington did sleep here around the time of the river crossing. The house was owned by the Johnson family, who operated a sizeable plantation and a ferry service in the region in the 1700s. There are often living history demonstrations held here on the weekends. But it's open limited hours, so call ☎ 609-737-2515 for schedule.

Finally, there's an **Open Air Theater** on a rolling hillside just below the park pond. The theater is operated by the Washington Crossing Association of New Jersey during the summer months. It offers a varied selection of music and drama programs. There is nothing better on a warm summer's night than sitting under the stars here. Call ☎ 609-737-1826 for details.

Princeton Cemetery (29 Greenview Avenue, Princeton, ☎ 609-924-1369). Granted, it's a bit odd to list a cemetery as a best bet to visit, but it's also a bit odd to have a cemetery that sometimes gives tours pointing out the graves of all the famous people buried there, as this one does. But among the famous "residents" that call this cemetery their final home are Grover Cleveland (only US president born in New Jersey), daughter Ruth Cleveland (for whom the Baby Ruth candy bar was named), Aaron Burr Jr., and writer John O'Hara. The cemetery actually has so many visitors asking for the location of so-and-so's grave that the office has been known to hand out maps that show the locations.

> ***Fun Fact:*** *The sites are not tourist attractions, but New Jersey is the final resting place of two of the most famous animals in the world. Elsie (real name, Lobelia), the Borden's cow, is buried in Plainsboro in Mercer County. Meanwhile, MGM's Leo the Lion is buried in Morris County.*

Howell Living History Farm (101 Hunter Road, Titusville; ☎ 609-737-3299; February-November, 10-4, Tuesday to Saturday, 12-4 on Sunday, www.howellfarm.com). Want to be transported to an early 1900s farm in central New Jersey? You can if you visit this fascinating place, which, as its title suggests, is living history at its most realistic. Workers go about the same tasks as their ancestors did on this 100-acre farm, tilling fields, tending livestock, and in general living as folks did over a century ago.

You take a self-guided tour of the farm, which is full of real work animals. We tend to forget that in the days before mechanization, these beasts of burden provided us with the only source of locomotion available. The horses are especially impressive; they are big plowing horses from Pennsylvania Dutch country.

One of the most interesting things about Howell Farm is the pond. Normally just a repository for ducks and the like, in the winter when it freezes the pond becomes as useful as everything else on the farm. The ice is cut, covered with sawdust, and used as insulation. (Our ancestors didn't have the luxury of running to the store for everything, so they had to make do with what was at hand.)

These are just a few of the many highlights of a trip to Howell Farm. There are over two dozen things to see, including beehives, an apple orchard, butter churning and baking. In addition, the farm runs different activities according to the season, such as autumn hayrides.

Old Barracks Museum (Barrack Street, Trenton, ☎ 609-396-1776, 10-5, www.barracks.org). You need to go all the way to Trenton, New Jersey to find the only surviving British Colonial barracks in the United States. It might be odd to find this type of museum in the middle of a big city, but that's part of the unique charm of the Old Barracks. Built in 1758, the Barracks still has its original dirt courtyard outside, which sets the tone for this unique historical experience. The facility contains a cultural history exhibit, interactive experiences, and a living history element with costumed guides. They also run a bevy of special programs.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Old Barracks was saved from demolition by the Old Barracks Association. Before that it had been a relief home for women; before that, it was a series of private residences. Before that, it had been a hospital for wounded soldiers. So

the building had gone through many "lives" before it was saved to be the genuine historic treasure that it is today.

Drumthwacket (354 Stockton Street, Princeton, ☎ 609-683-0057, tours by reservation only, www.drumthwacket.org). Imagine for a moment that you're the governor of New Jersey. You're one of the most powerful chief executives in the nation, able to wield tremendous political power. Yet you have to live in a house with the odd-sounding name of Drumthwacket. (Just for the record, "Drumthwacket" is Celtic for "wooded hill.")

Even though its name resembles the sound that a tennis ball makes when it hits a racket, the mansion is still fun and interesting to tour. The folks who run Drumthwacket recently completed a $600,000 renovation of the property.

Visitors can tour the beautiful first floor. The second is off-limits. But it's worth the visit just to see the historic paintings, as well as the stone fireplace in the library.

Trent House (15 Market Street, Trenton, ☎ 609-989-3027, 12:30-4, daily, www.williamtrenthouse.org). This handsome stone structure was once the home of William Trent, for whom Trenton was named. ("Trent's town" morphed into "Trenton.")

Almost the Capital

Trenton was almost the capital of the United States. Back before Washington DC was a reality, lawmakers actually voted in 1783 to establish the national capital at Trenton. But Southern delegates refused to go along with the idea, preferring a capital located more towards their region. Even George Washington weighed in on the issue against Trenton. Finally, a political deal was negotiated with Southern delegates and, in exchange for their votes, the capital was placed on the banks of the Potomac.

This elegant Georgian-style home has been restored and furnished to appear as it did in 1728. It is a wonderful example of how people lived during Colonial times. A guide takes you on a tour of the home, which has period furnishings. Note the chandelier, which has removable arms. Why? So guests could take the arms out and use them to light the way to their rooms at night. Pretty clever.

❖ ***Tip:*** *The Trent House was undergoing an ambitious restoration program recently, which included closing the house (although the grounds stayed open). Call to determine the current status.*

Grounds for Sculpture (18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton Township, ☎ 609-586-0616, Tuesday-Sunday, 10-9, www.groundsforsculpture.org). This is an amazing place on the site of the former New Jersey State Fair. Here, spread over 35 beautifully landscaped acres, is a homage to the art of sculpture. Many famous names in sculpting are represented, and some of the pieces, particularly those outside, are enormous. Both guided and self-guided tours are available. Some of the pieces, particularly by W. Seward Johnson, are "realistic" sculptures in the sense that they seem like real people from a distance. Even up close, you expect the figures to move around and talk. Permanent and changing exhibitions are featured. Many benches are scattered around and visitors are encouraged to plop down and contemplate a piece of sculpture. On a nice sunny day, with the green grass and flowers, it's hard to find a more peaceful site.

Of particular interest here is **The Museum**, which contains objects made from many different media, including metal, plaster, and paper. The building once was used to display farm animals back in the fair days.

State Police Museum (River Road, Route 175, West Trenton, ☎ 609-882-2000, ext. 6400, 10-4, Monday-Saturday, www.njsp.org/about/museum). When you first hear about this place, you may think that it's all about the training portion of what it takes to become a New Jersey State Policeman – and there is some of that here. But then you start discovering the fascinating history of this organization, which was begun by Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf (whose son Norman was in charge of Desert Storm). What is perhaps most fascinating, even more so than the CSI (Crime Scene Investigation) exhibit, are the artifacts from the famous Lindbergh Baby kidnapping, such as the original ransom notes, the controversial "ladder" that the kidnapper used, and vials containing hair and bone fragments retrieved from the wooded area where the baby was discovered. Many of the exhibits are interactive, and fun to play with for kids *and* adults. Sitting behind the wheel of a police cruiser, turning on the red rooftop lights, and listening to the police scanner is cool fun for anyone, no matter how old.

❦ ***Fun Fact:*** *The next time you pass a tattoo parlor, don't be surprised if you see a chicken inside. It seems that the State Police ran a tattoo program for chickens in the 1930s to deter the rampant theft of the birds during those dark Depression days.*

New Jersey State House (125 West State Street, Trenton, ☎ 609-292-4840, guided tours weekdays, 10-3, Saturdays, 12-3). Normally you wouldn't think of going to a boring government building to watch boring legislators do boring government stuff, but the New Jersey State House is something special. Topped off by a beautiful gold dome that dominates the Trenton skyline, the State House was built in 1792 and is the nation's second-oldest state capitol in continuous use. The interior of the building just breathes history, and has the smell and rich reflected color of old wood, unlike the sterile glass and steel environment of many modern buildings. The Senate Chamber, completed in 1903, contains a stained glass dome and several murals. As you tour the building, think of all the famous people who have trod there, like Woodrow Wilson, Dorothea Dix, and Abraham Lincoln, to name but a few.

Princeton Battlefield State Park (500 Mercer Road, Princeton Township, ☎ 609-921-0074, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). This isn't the biggest state park (681 acres) around, but Princeton Battlefield State Park is one of the most historically important in the whole system. It was here in January, 1777 that Washington and his troops fought and won a desperate battle against British regulars (the first time the Colonials beat the Redcoats). Coming just after the emotional Christmas night victory at Trenton, the win gave the flagging Colonial spirit a shot in the arm, and helped keep the fire of freedom burning. It's a good place to take a blanket and a picnic lunch and think about the amazing sacrifices of Washington's men.

The Mercer Oak

Why is that small sapling surrounded by a fence in the middle of the park? For over 200 years the Mercer Oak stood in that spot. According to legend, it was under this tree that the mortally wounded Colonial General Hugh Mercer (who gave his name to Mercer County) rested while the battle of Princeton raged. He was later carried to the Clark House, also on the battlefield site, where he died. The Mercer Oak finally succumbed to old age in the late 1990s. The sapling is from that famous tree.

Restaurants

Acacia (American, 2637 Main Street, Lawrenceville, ☎ 609-895-9885). Creative American cuisine sets the pace here.

Amici Milano Restaurant (Italian, 600 Chestnut Avenue, Trenton, ☎ 609-396-6300).

Big Fish (seafood, 3535 Route 1, Marketfair Mall, Princeton, ☎ 609-919-1178). What restaurant offers fresh fish cooked in wood-burning ovens and grills? Right here.

Blue Point Grill (seafood, 258 Nassau Street, Princeton, ☎ 609-921-1211). The nautical theme is only part of the charm here.

Brothers Moon (French, 7 West Broad Street, Hopewell, ☎ 609-333-1330).

Downtown Deluxe (Southern soul, 48 Leigh Avenue, Princeton, ☎ 609-921-3052).

The Ferry House (American, 32 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, ☎ 609-924-2488).

Lahiere's (French, 11 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, ☎ 609-921-2798). The award-winning wine list isn't the only thing to like about this elegant establishment.

La Terraza (Spanish, 47B State Road, Route 206 North, Princeton, ☎ 609-497-2774).

Les Copains (French, 18 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, ☎ 609-683-4771).

Main Street Euro-American Bistro & Bar (Bistro, 301 North Harrison Street, Princeton, ☎ 609-921-2779).

Malaga (Spanish/Portuguese, 511 Lalor Street, Trenton, ☎ 609-396-8878).

Marsilio's Restaurant (Italian, 541 Roebling Avenue, Trenton, ☎ 609-695-1916).

Mediterra (Mediterranean, 29 Hulfish Street, Princeton, ☎ 609-252-9680).

Passage to India (Indian, 2495 Highway 1 & Texas Avenue, Lawrenceville, ☎ 609-637-0800).

Rat's (French, 16 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton, ☎ 609-584-7800). Food to enjoy the Grounds for Sculpture with (see page 172).

Tre Piani (Italian/American, 120 Rockingham Row, Forestal Village, Plainsboro, ☎ 609-452-1515). Located in the discount outlet of Forrestal Village.

Accommodations

East Windsor

Days Inn (460 Highway 33 East, ☎ 609-448-3200).

Ramada Inn (399 Monmouth Street, ☎ 609-448-7000).

Lawrenceville

Howard Johnson (2995 Highway 1 South, ☎ 609-896-1100).

McIntosh Inn (3270 Highway 1, ☎ 609-896-3700).

Red Roof Motor Inn (3203 Highway 1, ☎ 609-896-3388).

Pennington

Stage Depot (145 Highway 31, ☎ 609-466-2000).

Princeton

AmeriSuites (3565 Highway 1, ☎ 609-720-0200).
Courtyard By Marriott (3815 Highway 1, ☎ 609-716-9100).
Days Inn (4191 Highway 1, ☎ 732-329-4555).
Doral Forestall Hotel & Spa (100 College Road East, ☎ 609-452-7800).
Hyatt Regency (Highway 1 at Carnegie Center, ☎ 609-987-1234).
Holiday Inn (100 Independence Way, Princeton Corporate Center, ☎ 609-520-1200).
Nassau Inn (10 Palmer Square, ☎ 609-921-7500).
Palmer Inn - Best Western (3499 Highway 1, ☎ 609-452-2500).
Peacock Inn (20 Bayard Lane, ☎ 609-924-1707).
Radisson Hotel (4355 Highway 1 at Ridge Road, ☎ 609-452-2400)
Residence Inn (4225 Highway 1, ☎ 732-392-9600).
Summerfield Suite Hotel (4375 Highway 1, ☎ 609-951-0009).
Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village (201 Village Boulevard, Forrestal Village, ☎ 609-452-7900).

Shopping

Antiques

Tomato Factory Antique Center (2 Somerset Street, Hopewell, ☎ 609-466-9833).

Malls

MarketFair (Highway 1 at Meadow Road, Princeton, ☎ 609-452-7777).
Quakerbridge Mall (Highway 1 & Quakerbridge Road, Lawrenceville, ☎ 609-799-8177).

Outlets

Princeton Forrestal Village (Highway 1 & College Road West, Princeton, ☎ 609-799-7400).

Shopping Districts

Downtown Princeton Borough (Chamber of Commerce, Princeton, ☎ 609-520-1776.

Middlesex County

Middlesex County Towns	
Carteret	North Brunswick
Cranbury	Old Bridge
Dunellen	Perth Amboy
East Brunswick	Piscataway
Edison	Plainsboro
Helmetta	Sayreville
Highland Park	South Amboy
Jamesburg	South Brunswick
Metuchen	South Plainfield
Middlesex	South River
Milltown	Spotswood
Monroe Township	Woodbridge
New Brunswick	

This is the last of the "middle counties." It is just about in the middle of the state and in fact advertises itself as the "heart" of New Jersey. But the county is not named "Middlesex" just because of its location. The name comes from Merry Olde England in days of yore, where "Middlesex" was the area between Essex and Sussex counties.

Historically, Middlesex has the first city ever incorporated in the state of New Jersey – Perth Amboy in 1718. It also has a number of other firsts to its credit, including the location of the first snuff factory in the United States (Helmetta in 1812) and the location of the first artist's colony in America (Perth Amboy again, around 1845).

Today, Middlesex is one of the fastest-growing counties in the state, and a delightful place to visit. It offers a variety of things to do, such as an art museum and a museum of agriculture. As a destination for visitors, Middlesex certainly has its heart in the right place.

The First College Football Game

Middlesex County is the site of one of the most historic events of all time. (At least, those who spend every autumn Saturday in front of the TV think so.) Unfortunately, it's not commemorated in any way, and so just the knowledge of it will have to suffice.

On November 6, 1869, a group of students from the colleges of Rutgers and Princeton got together at the Rutgers campus in New Brunswick and played the first college football game. College football wasn't even a blip on the sports radar screen at the time, but this game put it on the map for good.

The score? Rutgers won by the baseball-like score of 6-4. (Princeton, however, won the rematch.)

Best Bets

Cranbury (www.cranbury.org). Add Cranbury to the ranks of pretty and quaint New Jersey towns that are a delight to walk through for shopping or just for fun. It's hard to beat this bucolic place for atmosphere or friendliness.

You know you're in someplace special as you enter the town and drive past a picture-book lake complete with ducks and overhanging trees. Find a place to park and walk back over to the lake. It's as pretty a sight as you'll see. The town itself has many stores and shops that are fun to check out. When you're ready for lunch or dinner, the historic **Cranbury Inn** awaits (21 South Main St. at Station Rd., ☎ 609-655-5595), but you might have to step aside as one of the several human or animal ghosts that supposedly haunts the building glides by.

The town contains several small museums that are open limited days and hours, such as the **Cranbury History Center**, open Monday and Thursday, 10-1 (☎ 609-860-1889), and **Cranbury Museum**, open Sundays, 1-4 (☎ 609-655-2611). You can call for an appointmentat other times.

Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Art Museum (71 Hamilton Street, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-932-7237, Tuesday-Friday, 10-4, weekends, 12-5, closed Tuesdays in July and entire month of August, www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu). Here's an exceptional art museum of the calibre you'd expect to find only in a major city. On the campus of Rutgers University, this museum has more than 50,000 artworks to draw from when creating exhibitions. It includes art from the late 19th century to the present, exhibitions of the National Association of Women Artists, a collection of stained glass, and a collection of children's literature illustrations.

New Jersey Museum of Agriculture (103 College Farm Road, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-249-2077, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-5, www.agriculture-museum.org). If you have a hankering to see some real old farming utensils, run, don't walk, to this unusual museum at the entrance to the Cook College campus of Rutgers University. There are the usual old rakes, shovels, and hoes here, along with some strange-looking tools that seem more fitted for a medieval torture chamber than farming! Seeing this vast collection, second in scope to the collection at the Smithsonian, makes one realize just how back-breaking farming was. Not usually crowded, the museum's unhurried atmosphere allows visitors to tour and read at their own pace.

East Olde Towne Village (1050 River Road, Johnson Park, Piscataway, ☎ 732-745-3030, Tuesday-Friday, 8-4:15, Sunday, 1-4). A work in progress, but one that can still be enjoyed. This living history site located in Johnson Park is representative of both a farming and

merchant community from central New Jersey in the 18th century. Buildings on the site include a school, church, tavern, and barn, as well as various houses. While most of the buildings have been relocated to the site, some were constructed here. East Olde Towne Village also hosts a series of special events around various themes. Call and see what's going on before heading there.

Raceway Park (Pension Road, Old Bridge, ☎ 732-446-7800, various days of operation and hours, www.etownraceway.com). Calling all auto racing fans! If you like nitro-burning funny cars, motocross, and other vehicles with gas-powered engines racing around a track, you've got to head to this homage to auto racing. Vehicles race from March through November, with special events galore.

Cheesequake State Park (300 Gordon Road, Matawan, ☎ 732-566-2161, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). All right, what the heck is a "cheesequake"? The answer to that question is that the word means "quaking bog," and comes from the Lenni Lenape, who fished and hunted in the park 6,000 years ago. Cheesequake State Park lies in the middle ground between New Jersey's northern and southern ecosystems. This means that it contains open fields, saltwater and freshwater marshes, a white cedar swamp, a touch of the Pinelands, and a northeastern hardwood forest.

At Cheesequake you'll find several interesting hiking trails; the longest is 3½ miles, and the landscape is not tremendously hard to navigate. On the hike, it's quite common to encounter a raccoon, fox, muskrat, chipmunk, deer, or other woodland creature. The park is something of a birders' magnet as well; nearly 200 species of feathered friends have been sighted there. Besides the usual outdoorsy things to do, such as swimming, boating, camping and picnicking, Cheesequake also has an interpretive center that traces the area's environmental evolution over several hundred years.

Discovery House (152 Tices Lane, East Brunswick, ☎ 732-254-3770, Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30-5:30, Sunday, 11-5:30, www.discoveryhouse.com). This is another hands-on experience for kids that combines fun and science. It uses a child's natural curiosity and inclination to play with things to let kids have fun while teaching them at the same time. Founded by an educator, who realized that getting science out of textbooks is as fun as a root canal without novocaine, Discovery House contains over 100 interactive exhibits, such as a see-through half-toilet that lets you see what happens when it's flushed.

Rutgers Geology Museum (George & Somerset Streets, College Avenue Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-932-7243, Monday, 1-4, Tuesday-Friday, 9-12). Certainly not a full-day outing, but still an interesting way to spend a few hours. The

museum is in Geology Hall on the College Avenue Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick. A second-floor balcony lets you look out over the entire museum. Inside, you'll find a reconstructed mastodon skeleton from Salem County, dinosaur tracks from other parts of New Jersey, an Egyptian mummy, a rocks and minerals display, and other exhibits dealing with the natural history of New Jersey. The museum is not often crowded, and can usually be toured at your own pace.

Restaurants

Akbar (Indian, 21 Cortland Street, Edison, ☎ 732-632-8822). Indian cuisine in a town named after the great inventor.

Allen's Ristorante Italiano (Italian, 515 Highway 1 South, Sheraton at Woodbridge Place, Woodbridge, ☎ 732-634-3600).

Arthur's Tavern (American, 644 Georges Road, North Brunswick, ☎ 732-828-1117).

Clyde's (eclectic, 55 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-846-6521).

Cranbury Inn (American, 21 South Main St. at Station Rd. Cranbury, ☎ 609-655-5595).

Fiddlehead's (American, 27 East Railroad Avenue, Jamesburg, ☎ 732-521-0878).

Forsgate Country Club (American, Forsgate Drive, Monroe, ☎ 732-521-0070).

Frontier (Afghan, 1700 Oak Tree Road, Sugartree Plaza, Edison, ☎ 732-767-1262). This restaurant, formerly the Afghan Grill, still serves Afghan cuisine.

The Frog & The Peach (American, 29 Dennis Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-846-3216).

Gaebel's (American/Pan/Asian, 85 Church Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-247-3131).

Gallagher's (American, 1 South at Ridge Road, South Brunswick, ☎ 609-452-2044).

Green Grotto (Jamaican, 300 George Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-249-6444). A trip to the islands, but you'll be home in plenty of time to pay the babysitter.

La Fontana (Italian, 120 Albany Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-249-7500).

Makeda (Ethiopian, 338 George Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-545-5115). A unique cuisine.

Meemah (Chinese/Malaysian, Highway 27, Colonial Village Shopping Center, Edison, ☎ 732-906-2223).

Metuchen Inn (American, 424 Middlesex Avenue, Metuchen, ☎ 732-494-6444).

Nova Terra (Pan-Latin, 78 Albany Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-296-1600).

The Old Bay Restaurant (Cajun/Creole, 61-63 Church Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-246-3111). When's the last time you had Cajun/Creole cuisine served in a true-to-life recreation of a 19th-century New Orleans bistro?

Panico's (Italian, 103 Church Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-545-6100). See a play at the State Theatre, and eat here.

P**ortuguese Manor** (Iberian, 310 Elm Street, Perth Amboy, ☎ 732-826-2233).

Red Diner (American, 392 Amboy Avenue, Woodbridge, ☎ 732-634-9200).

Royal Thai (Thai, 1700 Oak Tree Road, Sugartree Plaza, Edison, ☎ 732-767-1263).

Shabri (Indian, King George Post Road, Fords, ☎ 732-661-1070).

Soho On George (American, 335 George Street, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-296-0533).

Stage Left: An American Café (American, 5 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-828-4444).

2 Albany (American, 2 Albany Street, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-873-6600).

Victoria's (American, 2055 Lincoln Highway [Highway 27], Clarion Hotel, Edison, ☎ 732-287-3500).

Woodbridge Steak House (American, 515 Highway 1 South, Sheraton at Woodbridge Place, Woodbridge, ☎ 732-634-3600).

Accommodations

Avenel

Comfort Suites (1275 Highway 1 South, ☎ 732-396-3000).

Carteret

Holiday Inn (1000 Roosevelt Avenue, ☎ 732-541-9500).

Cranbury

Courtyard by Marriott (420 Forsgate Drive, ☎ 609-655-9950).

Dayton

Days Inn (2316 Route 130, ☎ 732-329-3000).

East Brunswick

Hilton (3 Tower Center Boulevard, ☎ 732-828-2000).

McIntosh Inn (764 Highway 18 North, ☎ 732-238-4900).

Ramada Inn (195 Highway 18 South, ☎ 732-828-6900).

Edison

Clarion Hotel & Towers (2055 Lincoln Highway/Highway 27, ☎ 732-287-3500).

Days Inn (610 Highway 1 North, ☎ 732-985-2666).

Hilton Garden Inn (50 Raritan Center Parkway, ☎ 732-225-0900).

Holiday Inn Express (21 Cortinadt Street, ☎ 732-548-7000).

Red Roof Inn (860 New Durham Road, ☎ 732-248-9300).

Sheraton (125 Raritan Center Parkway, ☎ 732-225-8300).

Wellesley Inn & Suites (831 Highway 1 South, ☎ 732-287-0171).

Iselin

Sheraton (515 Highway 1 South, ☎ 732-634-3600).

Monmouth Junction

Days Inn (4191 Highway 1 South, ☎ 732-329-4555).

Red Roof Inn (208 New Road, ☎ 732-821-8800).

Residence Inns by Marriott (4225 Highway 1 South, ☎ 732-329-9600).

Shopping

Malls

Brunswick Square Mall (755 Highway 18, East Brunswick, ☎ 732-238-3600).

Menlo Park Shopping Mall (Highway 1 & Parsonage Road, Edison, ☎ 732-549-5427).

Woodbridge Center (250 Woodbridge Center Drive, Woodbridge, ☎ 732-636-4600).

Southern New Jersey

Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties

The Southern counties are as different from the rest of New Jersey as a diamond is from a piece of shiny quartz. The Northern counties have the urban character, the Northwestern counties have the hills and valleys, and the Middle counties are bracketed by water on both sides – the Delaware River and the Atlantic Ocean. But the Southern counties have the wide open spaces. This is where New Jersey gets its "Garden State" nickname. This is the area of truck farms, of miles and miles of farmers' fields packed with everything from famous Jersey tomatoes to famous Jersey peaches. The land here is flat and fertile, and the incredible richness and variety of the crops grown here has to be seen to be believed. Yet the soil is also extremely sandy in places, and that has given rise to the legendary South Jersey glassworking industry.

This area has a combination of interesting things to do. They may get overshadowed by the nearby Shore counties in terms of tourist attractions, but the many attractions include a zoo, a glass museum, and a rodeo.

Cumberland County

Cumberland County Towns	
Bridgeton	**Lawrence Township**
Commercial Township	**Maurice River Township**
Deerfield Township	**Millville**
Downe Township	**Shiloh**
Fairfield Township	**Stow Creek Township**
Greenwich Township	**Upper Deerfield Township**
Hopewell Township	**Vineland**

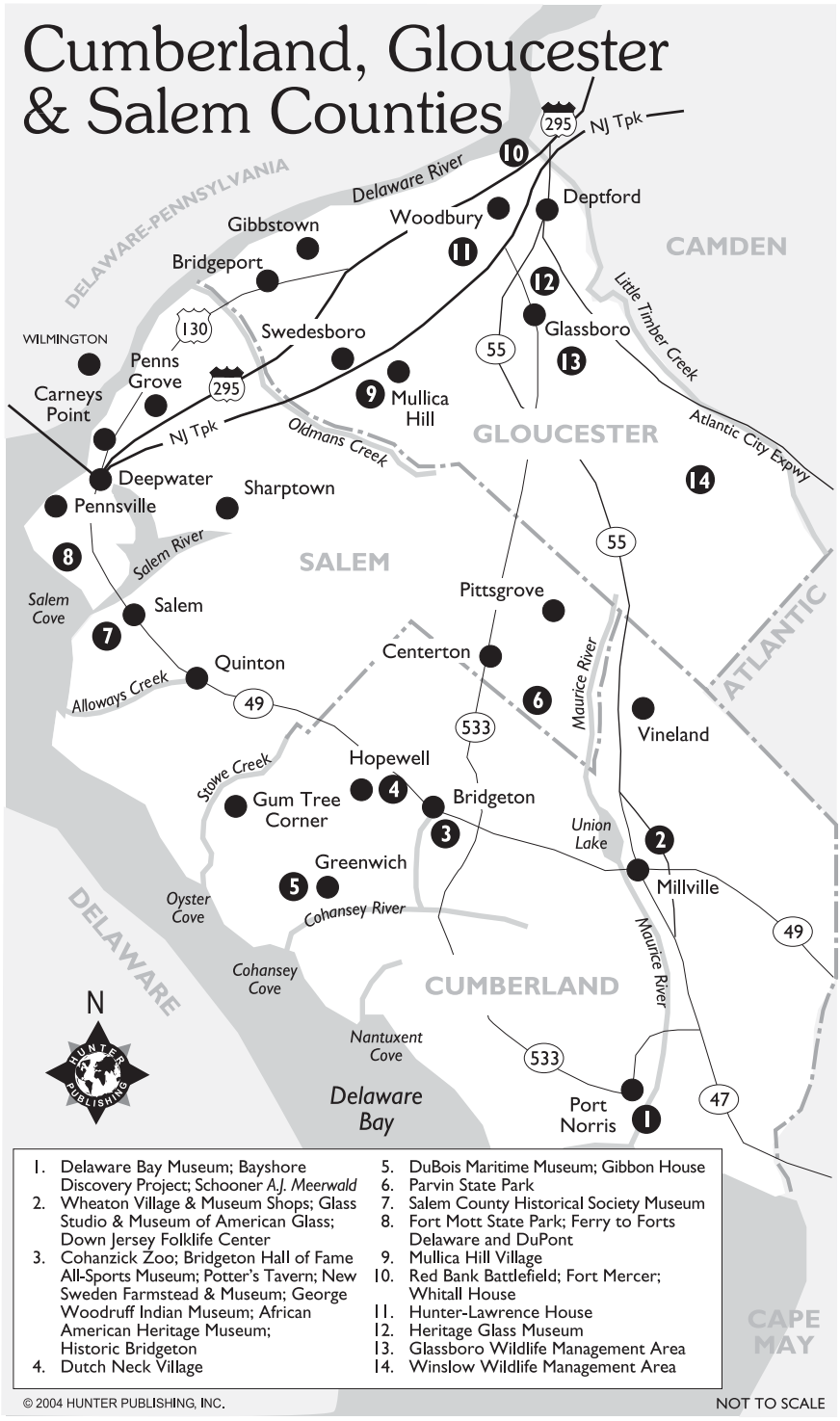
Green and serene, Cumberland County sits nestled in the corridor between Boston and Washington, DC. Although life in this part of the East Coast can get frantic, Cumberland County resists the urge to "get crazy," instead focusing their attention and energy on enjoying the natural beauty that surrounds them. Life in Cumberland County is at a simpler, less-hectic pace, and this unhurried feeling shows up in everything, from the casual roadside produce stands to the vast open fields. It's reflected as well in the county's fierce pride in their heritage, such as glass-blowing or fishing.

Initially a part of Salem County until the mid-18th century, Cumberland has spent the last 250 years carving out its own identity. That includes some interesting attractions, such as New Jersey's first zoo and an attraction honoring the brave Scandinavians who first settled the region.

So if you have a chance, visit Cumberland County. Its people take a justifiable pride in their way of life, and in enabling visitors to have a good time.

The New Jersey Tea Burners

Did you know that New Jersey had its own tea party, just like the Boston Tea Party? In December, 1774, tea from a British vessel was stored in the cellar of a British sympathizer at Greenwich in Cumberland County. On the night of December 22, men dressed as "Indians" stormed into the house, took the tea outside the home, and burned it in the town square. Today there is a large stone monument to the tea-burners in Greenwich, but the tea party's significance has been lost in the shadow of Boston's flashier exploit.


Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem Counties
295
NJ Tpk
Delaware River
DELAWARE-PENNSYLVANIA
Gibbstown
Woodbury
Deptford
CAMDEN
Bridgeport
Little Timber Creek
130
Swedesboro
Glassboro
55
WILMINGTON
Penns Grove
295
Carneys Point
Mullica Hill
NJ Tpk
Oldmans Creek
GLOUCESTER
Atlantic City Expwy
Deepwater
Sharptown
Pennsville
Salem River
SALEM
55
Salem Cove
Salem
Pittsgrove
ATLANTIC
Centerton
Quinton
Alloways Creek
49
Maurice River
533
Vineland
Hopewell
Stowe Creek
Gum Tree Corner
Bridgeton
Union Lake
Greenwich
Millville
Oyster Cove
Cohansey River
49
DELAWARE
Cohansey Cove
CUMBERLAND
Maurice River
N
Nantuxent Cove
533
Delaware Bay
Port Norris
47
CAPE MAY
1. Delaware Bay Museum; Bayshore Discovery Project; Schooner A.J. Meerwald
2. Wheaton Village & Museum Shops; Glass Studio & Museum of American Glass; Down Jersey Folklife Center
3. Cohanzick Zoo; Bridgeton Hall of Fame All-Sports Museum; Potter's Tavern; New Sweden Farmstead & Museum; George Woodruff Indian Museum; African American Heritage Museum; Historic Bridgeton
4. Dutch Neck Village
5. DuBois Maritime Museum; Gibbon House
6. Parvin State Park
7. Salem County Historical Society Museum
8. Fort Mott State Park; Ferry to Forts Delaware and DuPont
9. Mullica Hill Village
10. Red Bank Battlefield; Fort Mercer; Whitall House
11. Hunter-Lawrence House
12. Heritage Glass Museum
13. Glassboro Wildlife Management Area
14. Winslow Wildlife Management Area
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NOT TO SCALE

Best Bets

Cohanzick Zoo (181 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, ☎ 856-455-3230, ext. 242/277, spring/summer, 10-6, fall/winter, 9-4). Established in 1934, this exceptional facility was New Jersey's first zoo. It's actually located in Bridgeton's park, and contains over 200 animals and birds, such as bears, lions, and eagles. But, besides the typical zoo animals, the Cohanzick Zoo contains such unusual creatures as Arctic foxes, white tigers, reindeers, and turkey vultures. The facility also contains the state's only walk-through aviary. This is not something to be overlooked if you're in the area.

Wheaton Village (1501 Glasstown Road, Millville, ☎ 800-998-4552, April-December, Tuesday-Sunday, 10-5; January-March, Friday-Sunday, 10-5, www.wheatonvillage.
org). As stated above, Southern New Jersey used to be a center of the glass-making industry because of its abundance of sand, and there was no better place at creating glass than Wheaton Village. (In fact, Millville is still producing it.)

Today you can see this glass being made at Wheaton Village, which has turned into an artisan exhibition of glass-blowing and other skills, as well as a museum, a shopping experience and a regional educator.

In the **Glass Studio**, you can talk to glass-blowers about their techniques, and marvel as they use seemingly simple methods to make delicate objects of great beauty. The facility offers several narrated demonstrations daily, but it's fun to just walk in and talk to the affable craftspeople. If you don't mind the heat, then under supervision you can also try to blow glass on your own to make a paperweight. One hint: it's harder than blowing a soap bubble!

In the **Museum of American Glass**, which just looks like a museum should look in its Victorian-style building, you can gaze at over 6,500 glass objects from what is probably the finest collection of American glass in the USA. It is certainly the largest museum in America dedicated to glass. Everything from mundane jars to exquisite masterpieces is displayed here, including the world's largest bottle.

Of course, you can buy many of the objects the glass-blowers create, and looking at all the sparkling beauty on display is just no fun if you can't purchase it as well. Wheaton Village has several unique stores that sell crafts, glassware, Christmas items, etc.

Something that you wouldn't expect to find in the glass capital of the world is the **Down Jersey Folklife Center**, but Wheaton Village is full of surprises. This is somewhat similar to Tuckerton Seaport in

Ocean County in that it seeks to preserve a unique and forgotten New Jersey way of life lived by people in the Southern counties. Cultural traditions you'll see include anything from gathering at a friend's house to utilizing a particular skill. You can learn about such traditions as fox chasing, while gaining a broader appreciation for the South Jersey way of life.

But that's not all to do here. You can ride an old-time train, see pottery and other crafts being made, visit a century-old schoolhouse, and more. With its blend of history, shopping, and creativity, Wheaton Village presents something for just about everyone in the family.

Holly Town

Did you know that, at one time, Millville was the home of the largest American holly farm in America? In fact, it still is officially known as "Holly Town, USA." It all started in the 1920s, when the president of a local company was searching for an alternative to sending out liquor as Christmas gifts to his customers and sent out holly sprigs instead. People loved the idea, and soon he was sending out thousands of holly sprigs each holiday season. Eventually, he had his own holly forest planted.

Bridgeton Hall of Fame All Sports Museum (Burt Avenue Recreation Center, Bridgeton, ☎ 856-451-7300, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-3). It probably comes as a surprise, but South Jersey is the home of numerous stars in various sports, such as hard-hitting baseball outfielder Leon "Goose" Goslin, heavyweight boxer Jack Gross, and Olympian John Borican. If you want to learn about them and their careers, then head to this fascinating and little-known shrine to South Jersey's top athletes. You'll see such memorabilia as: material from the 1980 Philadelphia Phillies world championship team; equipment from Bernice Gerta, baseball's first female umpire; a Willie Mays Gold Glove; and gloves as well as other items from boxer Rocky Graziano. Although it's not overly large, this is the perfect place for the sports fan who thought he or she had seen everything.

Bridgeton (☎ 856-455-3230, www.historicbridgeton.com). Bridgeton is the largest historic district in New Jersey, with over 2,200 structures on the National Register of Historic Places. You can take a walking tour of the district that smothers you in history and old-time charm. Approximately one-third of the town's structures are historic. Check out **Potter's Tavern**, which has been recreated as an example of an 18th-century eating and drinking establishment.

The town itself, while not an antique lover's haven like some other places, is nevertheless a charming destination with interesting stores for the shop-a-holic in the crowd. But the real attraction of Bridgeton is its sense of antiquity. You really do feel that you've stepped back to the past here. If you're looking for "the good old days," you can do no better than Bridgeton.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Bridgeton has an awful lot to see, and you don't want to miss what interests you the most. Start your visit at the Tourist Information Center, which is in the former railroad station. Here you can get a map and an audiocassette called "A Walk Through Time" that explains things.*

New Sweden Farmstead Museum (50 East Broad Street, Bridgeton, ☎ 856-455-9785, mid-May to Labor Day, Saturday, 11-5, Sunday, 12-5). This is a fascinating place, dedicated to and about a group not usually thought of when it comes to early New Jersey settlers. However, the Swedish influence in southern New Jersey was pervasive and remains to this day. Linguists have theorized that certain South Jersey speech patterns can be traced to the Swedish influence.

New Sweden depicts a typical 17th-century farming community of the type that was established by the first group of Scandanavian settlers. This attraction was opened with much fanfare in 1988, when the king and queen of Sweden participated in the initial ceremonies. The group that built this farming community strove for complete authenticity and accuracy, and they did a superb job. The log structures here include a blacksmith shop, barn, residence, stable and smokehouse. The furnishings and farm equipment are genuine, and many of the artifacts are from Sweden.

Dutch Neck Village (97 Trench Road, Hopewell, ☎ 856-451-2188, Monday-Saturday, 10-5, some shops open Sunday, www.dutchneckvillage.com). Come here for a delightful shopping day. Dutch Neck Village contains a mixture of interesting and unusual shops in an outdoor village setting landscaped with trees and flowers. Ironically, this shopping mecca started out as the offices of a landscaping firm!

John DuBois Maritime Museum (Route 607, Greenwich, ☎ 609-455-1774, April-November, Sunday, 1-4). It's open only limited hours, but if you have a chance, try to stop in and see this collection of Southern New Jersey maritime artifacts. The heritage and culture of this entire area is intertwined with water and boat-building. DuBois was a master wooden boat builder, and this museum contains much related to his skill and that of other craftsmen, including tools used to carve parts of wooden boats. The art of building wooden boats is just about gone, but this museum preserves its glorious tradition. If

you are into wooden boats and/or the history/culture of this region, this is the place for you.

Bayshore Discovery Project (2800 High Street, Port Norris, ☎ 856-785-2060). Formerly two attractions in one. The first is the **Schooner *A.J. Meerwald***, which is New Jersey's official tall ship. This 115-foot schooner was an oyster dredge in its former life. Then the oyster industry in South Jersey was virtually wiped out by a parasite that struck the oysters, and the vessel performed other functions until brought out of retirement for this project. The ship goes on a variety of public sails in the surrounding area, and is just pure fun – especially when you're cruising along on the water, and you don't hear a sound except for the ship cutting through the waves. The ship serves an important function as a floating classroom that promotes ecological awareness of Delaware Bay.

The other attraction is the **Delaware Bay Museum** (1727 Main Street, ☎ 856-785-2060, www.ajmeerwald.org/dbsp/html/meermus.html). It's open only limited hours on the weekends from April through October, but is worth a visit if you're in the area. If your curiosity about the South Jersey oyster industry has been piqued, satisfy it here. Much of this region's fate has historically been linked with water, and this museum explores that, with artifacts and photographs that trace the history of the Delaware Bay.

Gibbon House (Ye Greate Street, Greenwich, ☎ 856-455-4055, April to mid-December, Tuesday-Sunday, 12-4). It was 1730 when Nicholas Gibbon decided to build a duplicate of a townhouse that he had admired in London, England. Now flash forward over 250 years. Today the structure that Gibbon built in the Flemish Bond pattern is still standing, is the oldest home in Cumberland County, and has become a museum of life in the 18th century. This is not the typical two- or three-room home from years ago; it's a full-fledged mansion, with such opulent features (for those times, anyway) as a reception hall, drawing room, formal dining room, and two kitchens (although the second, or "new" kitchen, now sells souvenirs). In addition, there is a "barn museum" on the grounds that displays a variety of tools used in 18th- and 19th-century agriculture.

George Woodruff Indian Museum (Commerce Street, Bridgeton Free Public Library, Bridgeton, ☎ 856-451-2620, Monday-Saturday, 1-4). As you probably knew (or know by now), the Lenni-Lenape Indians were here first – long before European explorers ever set their eyes upon New Jersey. If you've ever been curious about these Native Americans, this museum is the place to find the answers to your questions. It contains over 20,000 Lenni-Lenape artifacts, and provides a fascinating and in-depth look at the life of these native peoples.

African-American Heritage Museum (Third and Plum Streets, Carl B. Arthur Recreation Center, Bridgeton, ☎ 856-794-6943, open by appointment). Opened in the summer of 2002, this small but significant museum traces the African-American experience from the slave ships to some of the first black families to live in Cumberland County.

Restaurants

Benjamin's (American, 101 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, ☎ 856-451-6449).

Continental Room (Continental, 2216 West Landis Avenue, Vineland, ☎ 856-696-3800). Not very well-known except by locals, but that will be changing as more and more people discover it.

Larry's II (American, 907 North Main Road, Vineland, ☎ 856-692-9001). Casual ambience, family atmosphere, good food.

Neptune Seafood House (seafood, 1554 South Delsea Drive, Vineland, ☎ 856-692-2800).

Accommodations

Bridgeton

Days Inn (500 East Broad Street, ☎ 609-455-1500).

Millville

Best Western (1701 North Second Street, ☎ 856-327-3300).

Country Inn By Carlson (1125 Village Drive, ☎ 856-825-3100)

Vineland

Comfort Inn (29 West Landis Avenue, ☎ 856-692-8070).

Days Inn (1001 West Landis Avenue, ☎ 856-696-5000).

Econo Lodge (998 West Landis Avenue, ☎ 856-696-3030).

Holiday Inn Express and Suites (390 Smith Street, ☎ 856-293-8888).

Ramada Inn (2216 West Landis Avenue, ☎ 888-298-2054).

Wingate Inn (2196 West Landis Avenue, ☎ 856-690-9900).

Shopping

Cumberland Mall (3849 South Delsea Drive, Vineland, ☎ 856-825-9507).

Dutch Neck Village (97 Trench Road, Hopewell, ☎ 856-415-2188).

Museum Shops of Wheaton Village (1501 Glasstown Road, Millville, ☎ 856-825-6800).

Gloucester County

❖ ***Tip:*** *Because it's one of the oldest counties in the state, Gloucester contains a wealth of historic sites. They are not listed as "best bets" in this book, because many of them are private residences and cannot be visited. But a drive through the county and its towns will certainly reveal many of these structures.*

Gloucester County Towns	
Clayton	National Park
Deptford Township	Newfield
East Greenwich Township	Paulsboro
Elk Township	Pitman
Franklin Township	South Harrison
Glassboro	Swedesboro
Greenwich	Washington Township
Harrison Township	Wenonah
Logan Township	West Deptford
Mantua Township	Westville
Monroe Township	Woodbury
Woodbury Heights	Woolwich Twnshp

The aerospace age began in the United States on January 9, 1793, in Gloucester Township, New Jersey.

On that date, the French aerialist Jean Pierre Blanchard took off in a hot air balloon from Philadelphia. His flight took about an hour, and covered 15 miles. He landed in Deptford Township, Gloucester County.

Blanchard carried a personal letter from President George Washington to allay the fears of suspicious and trigger-happy farmers, who saw his strange craft drop from the sky and weren't sure whether some type of demonic creature was paying them a visit.

Best Bets

Mullica Hill (Mullica Hill, ☎ 856-881-6800, www.mullicahill.com). Late in the 17th century, English and Irish Quakers established plantations in the area known as Mullica Hill. You won't find any plantations there today, or if you do, they'd certainly be selling antiques. The entire village of Mullica Hill has emerged as one of the best craft and antique centers, not only in New Jersey, but along the entire East Coast.

❦ ***Fun Fact:*** *Mullica Hill is one of the few areas in the Mid-Atlantic region to have a name with Finnish roots. Seems the town was named after pioneering Finnish settlers Eric, William, Olag and John Mullica.*

Take a walk through the Village of Mullica Hill. You'll find nearly 100 small shops selling all manner of crafts and antiques. The entire vil-

lage was placed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1991, and one look at the unique, old-fashioned architecture tells you why. Take time as you walk and buy to notice the interesting names of the shops.

❖ ***Tip:*** *Mullica Hill sponsors numerous special events throughout the year. These certainly enhance the experience of visiting the town, and they flood it with crowds. So, depending upon your preference, you might want to check what's going on before visiting Mullica Hill.*

Red Bank Battlefield (100 Hessian Avenue, National Park, ☎ 856-853-5120, Whitehall House, open selected hours). A little-known but important battle of the American Revolution took place here. After winning the Battle of Brandywine, the British needed to reduce this place so they could move on to Philadelphia. Washington told Colonel Christopher Greene to hold it no matter what. According to the story, Greene's Colonial troops hastily built a wall in the earthworks of Fort Mercer, in the northern portion of the park. They then held their fire until the Hessians, who outnumbered them more than two to one, were so close that the enemy wound up with wadding from the American weapons in their chest! Greene's victory in the battle is credited with convincing France to enter the war on the American side.

Also in the park is the house of James and Ann Whitall, which served as a makeshift hospital after the battle. Ann, who refused to leave her home during the battle when it came under fire, because she thought she would be needed, became known as the "Angel of the Battle of Red Bank." This was because of the way she selflessly took care of Colonials and Hessians alike.

Fort Mercer/Red Bank Battlefield Park is one of the real hidden treasures of New Jersey. While the fort does not have a million interactive things to do like some other military history parks, its mere presence is a living historical reminder of the importance of the Garden State during the fight for freedom. It does have signs that describe and explain the battle, plus portions of the floating log barricades that Greene submerged in the water to puncture the bottom of the British ships. The first floor of the Whitall house is available to tour.

Perhaps the most imposing thing about the park is its natural beauty. This is a gorgeously green place, with a spectacular view of the nearby Delaware River from the picnic pavilions.

The Warning

Jonas Cattell, an important figure in the American Revolution, was selected to warn the Colonials at Fort Mercer of the approaching Hessian soldiers. Supposedly, he ran 10 miles to give his warning, and was so quick that his warning was instrumental in the Americans being ready to fight the Hessians. Every year, a Jonas Cattell race is held in the area in his honor.

Heritage Glass Museum (High & Center Streets, Glassboro, ☎ 856-881-7468, Saturday, 11-2). As stated earlier, South Jersey was once a leading producer of glass in the United States. Just one look at the name of this town – Glassboro – indicates the importance of glass to this region. The glass museum traces the history of the glass industry through exhibits and displays.

Glassboro Wildlife Management Area (Highway 47, Glassboro, ☎ 856-785-0455). A good place to go for the hunter in the family. Rabbit, quail, and grouse can all be hunted here. There is also in-season stocking of pheasants.

Restaurants

Barnsboro Inn (Continental, 699 Main Street, Barnsboro, ☎ 856-468-3557).

Di Santillo (Italian, Gibbstown Shopping Center, Exit 17, I-295, Gibbstown, ☎ 856-423-2809). Great dining experience where the silverware is changed for every course.

Grabbe's Seafood Restaurant & Crab House (seafood, 19 Delsea Drive, Westville, ☎ 856-456-3594). As this restaurant so aptly puts it, "Crabs, crabs, crabs! Let the feast begin!"

Swedes Restaurant (American, 310 Kings Highway, Swedesboro, ☎ 856-467-2052). Okay, so maybe there's not a plethora of restaurants in the area to pick from, but this fabulous gem with its century-old tin ceiling more than makes up for it.

Accommodations

Deptford

Fairfield Inn (1160 Hurffville Road, ☎ 856-686-9050).

Residence Inn (1154 Hurffville Road, ☎ 856-686-9188).

Swedesboro

Hampton Inn Bridgeport (2 Pureland Drive, ☎ 856-467-6200).
Holiday Inn Select Bridgeport Executive Conference Center (1 Pureland Drive, ☎ 856-467-3322).

Mullica Hill

Penn Royal Manor (68 North Main Street, ☎ 856-478-0236).

Thorofare

Best Western-West Deptford Inn (101 Grove Road, ☎ 856-848-4111).

Williamstown

Park Inn International (1408 South Black Horse Pike, ☎ 856-292-8400).
Red Carpet Inn (105 North Black Horse Pike, ☎ 856-728-8000).
Star Motel (3012 South Black Horse Pike, ☎ 856-629-6022).

Shopping

Antiques

Mullica Hill Merchants Association (Mullica Hill, ☎ 856-881-6800).

Malls

Deptford Mall (1750 Deptford Center Road, Deptford, ☎ 856-848-8100).

Shopping Districts

Pitman (☎ 856-589-1777).
Woodbury (☎ 856-845-8655).

Salem County

Salem County Towns	
Alloway	Pennsville
Carneys Point	Pilesgrove Township
Elmer	Pittsgrove Township
Elsinboro Township	Quinton
Mannington Township	Salem
Oldmans Twp	Upper Pittsgrove Twp
Penns Grove	Woodstown

Last but certainly not least comes Salem County. Snuggled against the Delaware River, this is the westernmost of New Jersey's 21 counties, one of the oldest and also one of the most historic.

Salem County was created in 1694. One of the original counties of New Jersey, it is not very built

up, but its citizens much prefer it that way. Just a stone's throw from the hustle-and-bustle of Atlantic City and Cape May, Salem County is all about friendship, family, and good, old-fashioned values. It's the type of place that people visit and never leave.

Since its history does mirror that of New Jersey, Salem contains many historic structures. Most of these are not museums or historic sites, but private dwellings. The opportunity to see them is limited. That's why the **Salem County House & Garden Tour Weekend**, sponsored by the Salem County Historical Society, is such a popular event. Many historic structures are featured on this tour. This is one of the best historic home tours in New Jersey, and it happens only once a year. Contact the Salem County Historical Society (☎ 856-935-5004) for information.

But there are other things to do in Salem County, such as to see the rodeo or spread a picnic blanket in the shadow of Fort Mott. There's also the joy of just driving around and stopping at one of the many roadside stands for some of that famous New Jersey produce.

Best Bets

Cowtown Rodeo (780 Highway 40, Pilesgrove, ☎ 856-769-3200, Saturday-7:30, www.cowtownrodeo.com). Here's something that you might expect to find in Wyoming or someplace else out West, but it's right here in New Jersey. The Cowtown Rodeo is both a Saturday night tradition in Salem County, and the oldest continuously operating rodeo on the East Coast, dating back to 1929.

What you'll find here are bulls, cowboys trying to tame bucking broncos, rodeo clowns, etc. Even though this is a rodeo, it still has a family feel to it; that's probably because the Harris family, who started the rodeo back in 1920, still runs it. Open Memorial Day through mid-September.

❖ ***Tip:*** *If you've ever wanted to look, dress, or even just feel like a cowboy, the Cowtown Rodeo holds a flea market every Tuesday and Saturday where you can get any Western gear you want, or just soak up the atmosphere. Info Hotline ☎ 856-768-0900; office phone 768-2167.*

The Salem County Historical Society Museum (79-83 Market Street, Salem, ☎ 856-935-5004, Tuesday-Saturday, 12-4, www.salemcounty.com). In one of the most historic counties in the state, you might expect to find a historic museum of this superb magnitude. The Salem County Historical Society Museum and Library is housed in a complex of historical buildings. The complex includes the John Jones law office, believed to be the oldest law office in the United States. The

museum itself features a mixture of long-term and rotating exhibits on such subjects as Salem County folk and fine art. It also contains a collection of glass from Wistarburg, the first glassworks in the American colonies, Native American artifacts, and other items. The headquarters of the historical society is in the Alexander Grant House, which contains nearly two dozen rooms of early American furniture.

Fort Mott State Park (454 Fort Mott Road, Pennsville, ☎ 856-935-3218, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). Ironically, this peaceful, green place was originally conceived as a place of violence. It was supposed to be part of an elaborate Delaware River fortification system designed to keep this country safe from overseas attack.

Although this particular fort was built around the time of the Spanish-American War, the idea of a coastal defense of the Delaware River had been around since 1838, when the federal government first began acquiring land in the area. During the Civil War, two acres in the region were used as a cemetery for over 2,000 Confederate and 300 Union soldiers. This area was designated Finns Point National Cemetery in 1875.

The post-Civil War period was when things really got moving as far as defensive fortifications were concerned. Fort Mott was part of a three-part defensive system planned for the mouth of the Delaware River. (The other two forts were Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island and Fort DuPont in Delaware City, Delaware.) Construction began in 1872, but it ground to a halt four years later.

The looming war with Spain in the mid-1890s initiated another flurry of building activity. In December, 1897, the new fort was christened Fort Mott, in honor of the decorated Civil War veteran and native New Jerseyian Gersham Mott.

Troops were regularly stationed at Fort Mott starting in 1897, and it seemed as if the fort was set for a long period of guarding the river. But when Fort Salusbury was built near Milford, Delaware, shortly after World War I, Fort Mott became obsolete. The federal government maintained the facility with a skeleton force of troops from 1922 to 1943. New Jersey acquired the site as a park in 1947, and opened it to the public in 1951.

Today, the guns are long gone and people picnic in places where soldiers once walked. Not often mentioned as a Garden State tourist attraction, Fort Mott is unknown to most except the locals. This is a wonderful place to combine history and nature. Visitors can take a self-guided tour and learn all about the unique history of the fort.

You can take a ferry (in season) from the park to visit forts Delaware and DuPont. The Fort Mott site has picnic facilities, hiking trails,

and fishing available, but nothing quite beats the joy of just putting down a blanket and relaxing at this tranquil place.

Fort Mott State Park also contains a NJ Coastal Heritage Trail Welcome Center.

Parvin State Park (701 Almond Road/Route 540, Pittsgrove, ☎ 856-358-8616, www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests). You could ask 10 people where Parvin State Park is, and probably get 10 different incorrect answers.

This state park, tucked into the eastern part of Salem County, is not only lovely, but it has an interesting history. Parvin was the home of the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1933 to 1941, as well as a summer camp for the children of displaced Japanese-Americans in 1943. It served as a POW camp for German prisoners in 1944 and as temporary housing for the Kalmycks people when they fled the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the early 1950s. And that's only Parvin's recent history. It also contains the remains of ancient American Indian encampments.

The 1,100-acre park's vegetation/wildlife is remarkable. Since it's on the edge of the Pinelands, the park contains both pine forests and more typical hardwood areas. This park is also one of the prettiest in the entire state. The area around Parvin Lake is beautiful, particularly in the spring.

Besides swimming, boating, fishing, and hiking, Parvin has a 465-acre natural area with several trails running through it. Thus you can see the unique geography that makes Parvin such a wonder, as well as checking for wildlife such as the threatened barred owl.

Accommodations

Carney's Point

Comfort Inn (634 Soders Road, ☎ 856-299-8282).
Holiday Inn Express (506 Pennsville-Auburn Road, ☎ 856-351-9222).
Quality Inn & Conference Center (632 Pennsville-Auburn Road, ☎ 856-299-4900).

Penns Grove

Econo Lodge and Suites (632 Pennsville Auburn Road, ☎ 856-351-6600).
Wellesley Inn (517 South Pennsville-Auburn Road, ☎ 856-299-3800).

Pennsville

Hampton Inn (429 North Broadway, ☎ 856-351-1700).

Salem

Brown's Historic Home Bed & Breakfast (41 Market Street, ☎ 856-935-8595).

Woodstown

The Victorian Rose Farm Bed & Breakfast (947 Route 40, ☎ 856-769-4600).

Shopping

Flea Markets

Cowtown Flea Market (780 Highway 40, Cowtown, ☎ 856-769-3200).

Parks & Forests

Visit a park or forest! Here's a listing of them by county and what they have to offer.

Atlantic County

Camp Acagisca of Atlantic County, 6755 Weymouth Road (Route 559), ☎ 609-625-8219 (camping, low ropes challenge course).

Atlantic County Park at Estel Manor, Route 50, ☎ 609-645-5960 (nature center, camping, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, hunting).

Atlantic County Park at Lake Lenape, 6303 Harding Highway, Mays Landing, ☎ 609-625-8219 (camping, boating, fishing, hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing).

Atlantic County Park at River Bend, west of Route 559, along Great Egg Harbor River, Egg Harbor Township, ☎ 609-645-5960 (fishing, hiking, hunting).

Birch Grove Park, Burton Avenue, Northfield, ☎ 609-641-3778 (camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Great Creek Road, Oceanville, ☎ 609-652-1665 (birdwatching, boating, fishing, hiking).

Galloway Tract, Galloway Township, ☎ 609-625-1897 (hiking, bicycling, winter hunting).

Gaskill Park, River Road, Mays Landing, ☎ 609-625-1897 (boating, fishing, picnicking).

Hammonton Lake Park, Egg Harbor Road & Park Avenue, Hammonton, ☎ 609-567-4341 (boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking).

Lester G. MacNamara Wildlife Management Area, Highway 50, ☎ 609-628-2103 (fishing, birdwatching, hunting).

Oscar E. McClinton Jr. Waterfront Park, New Hampshire Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-625-1897 (walking, children's play area).

Penny Pot Park, north of Route 522, east of Route 561, Folsom Borough, ☎ 609-625-1897 (boating, canoeing).

Veteran's Memorial Park, Fire & Zion Roads, Bargaintown, ☎ 609-625-1897.

Weymouth County Park, intersection of Route 322 and Route 559, Hamilton Township, ☎ 609-645-5960 (boating, fishing, picnicking).

Whirlpool Island County Park, Shelter Island Bay, Northfield, ☎ 609-625-1897 (fishing, hunting).

Bergen County

Belmont Hill County Park, Botany Street, Garfield, ☎ 201-336-7275 (children's playground, scenic outlook).

Campgaw Mountain County Reservation, Campgaw Road, Mahwah Township, ☎ 201-327-7800 (camping, hiking, picnicking).

Dahnert's Lake County Park, Midland Avenue, Garfield, ☎ 201-336-7275 (fishing, picnicking, ice skating).

Darlington County Park, Darlington Avenue, Mahwah, ☎ 201-327-3500 (swimming, fishing, picnicking).

Dekorte State Park, Lyndhurst, Dekorte Park Place, ☎ 201-460-8300 (natural area, boating, fishing, crabbing, birdwatching; the park is well-known for its many and varied species of birds).

Losen Sloate Creek Park, Mehrhof Road, Little Ferry, ☎ 201-327-3500 (hiking, playground).

Overpeck County Park, Teaneck, Leonia, Palisades Park and Ridgefield Park, ☎ 201-336-7275 (horseback riding, walking paths, golf, picnicking).

Palisades Interstate Park, Alpine, ☎ 201-768-1360 (historical attractions, hiking, fishing, crabbing, boating, picnicking, cross-country skiing). The alpine area of this park contains the historic Blackledge-

Kearney House, which is currently a local history museum. The park also contains Henry Hudson Drive, a scenic road that runs underneath the Palisades cliffs. Open from approximately early April to late October, this road is closed to cars on weekends and holidays until noon so that joggers, bicyclists and pedestrians can take over. That's also the way it is on a full-time basis from late October to early April.

Pascack Brook County Park, Emerson Road, Westwood, ☎ 201-336-7275 (fishing, picnicking).

Ramapo Valley County Reservation, Ramapo Valley Road/Route 202, Mahwah, ☎ 201-336-7275 (camping, fishing, hiking).

Riverside County Park, River Road, North Arlington, ☎ 201-336-7275 (hiking, picnicking).

Saddle River County Park, Saddle River Road at Lewis Street, ☎ 201-336-7275 (fishing, picnicking, bicycle-pedestrian path).

Samuel Nelkin County Park, Rose Street, Wallington -☎ 201-336-7275 (fishing, picnicking).

Saw Mill Creek Wildlife Management Area, along the Hackensack River, Lyndhurst, ☎ 908-637-4125 (birding, fishing).

Van Saun County Park, Forest & Continental Avenues, Paramus, ☎ 201-262-2627 (zoo, miniature train ride, fishing, picnicking, gardens).

Wood Dale County Park, Prospect Avenue, Woodcliff Lake, ☎ 201-336-7275 (fishing, picnicking).

Burlington County

Atsion Recreation Area, Route 206, ☎ 609-268-0444 (camping, boating, fishing, swimming).

Bass River State Forest, 762 Stage Road, New Gretna, ☎ 609-296-1114 (nature center, natural areas, cabins, shelters, lean-tos, camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing).

Brendan Byrne State Forest, Highway 72, ☎ 609-726-1191 (natural areas, cabins, camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, hunting, horseback riding, birdwatching, cross-country skiing). Lebanon State Forest is the beginning point for the nearly 50-mile Batona Trail.

Burlington County Park, Smithville Road, Eastampton, ☎ 609-265-5068 (historic site, nature trails, fishing).

Cedar Run Wildlife Refuge, 4 Sawmill Road, Medford, ☎ 856-983-0326 (walking trail, environmental center).

Penn State Forest, Route 563, Jenkin's Neck, ☎ 609-296-1114 (boating, fishing, cross-country skiing).

Rancocas State Park, Hainesport & Westampton townships, ☎ 609-726-1191 (nature center, fishing, hiking, birdwatching).

Wharton State Forest, Vincetown, ☎ 609-268-0444 (historical Batsto village, natural areas, cabins, camping, boating, canoeing, swimming, fishing, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, picnicking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing).

Camden County

Berlin Park, Park Drive, Berlin, ☎ 856-725-7275 (environmental studies center, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Challenge Grove, runs from the corner of Caldwell and Brace Roads, along Borton Mill Road, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-767-7275 (unique sports-oriented park awarded the Innovative Accessible Facilities Award).

Cooper River Park, Cherry Hill, Pennsauken, Collingswood, & Haddon townships, ☎ 856-767-7275 (boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, bicycling, cross-country skiing).

Haddon Lake Park, Haddon Heights, Audubon & Mt. Ephrain, ☎ 856-767-7275 (fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Hopkins Pond, Hopkins Lane, Haddonfield, ☎ 856-767-7275 (fishing, hiking). Hopkins Pond is noted for its large trees.

Maria Barnaby Greenwald Memorial Park, bounded by Park Boulevard (just south of Rt. 70), Grove Street and Kings Highway, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-767-7275 (picnicking, bicycling, wildlife trail).

New Brooklyn Park, between New Freedom and New Brooklyn Roads, north of the Atlantic City Expressway, east of Rt. 536, Winslow Township, ☎ 856-767-7275 (boating, fishing, hiking).

Newton Lake Park, Collingswood, Oaklyn, & Haddon townships, ☎ 856-767-7275 (fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Pennypacker Park, Park Boulevard, Cherry Hill, ☎ 856-767-7275 (fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Ulysses S. Wiggins Waterfront Park, Camden Waterfront, between the Delaware River and Mickle Boulevard, Camden, ☎ 856-767-7275 (fishing, boating, home to aquarium, *USS New Jersey*, Riversharks baseball team).

Cape May County

Belleplain State Forest, Route 550, Woodbine, ☎ 609-861-2404 (leantos, camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing).

Cape May County Park, Route 9 & Pine Lane, ☎ 609-465-9210 (zoo, fishing, hiking, picnicking). This park contains the Cape May County Zoo.

Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, 24 Kimbles Beach Road, ☎ 609-463-0994 (hiking, birdwatching).

Cape May Point State Park, Lighthouse Avenue, Cape May Point, ☎ 609-884-2159 (lighthouse, nature center, natural area, birdwatching, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Corson's Inlet State Park, Ocean Drive, Strathmere, ☎ 609-861-2404 (canoeing, boating, fishing hiking).

Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area, New England Road, Cape May, ☎ 609-628-2103 (fishing, birdwatching, hunting).

Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area (from the junction of US Route 9 and State Road 50 in Seaville, take SR50 north for 4.8 miles to County Road 631, where you turn right and travel 0.3 miles to the entrance on the left), ☎ 609-628-2103 (boating, fishing, hunting, birdwatching, crabbing, clamming).

Cumberland County

Bridgeton City Park, Mayor Aitken Drive, Bridgeton, ☎ 856-455-3230 (zoo, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking). Contains Cohanzick Zoo, the first zoo in New Jersey.

Egg Island Wildlife Management Area, off Route 553, ☎ 856-629-0090 (fishing, birdwatching).

Fortescue Wildlife Management Area, Route 617, Fortescue, ☎ 856-447-3479 (fishing, birdwatching).

Giampietro Park, East Landis Avenue, Vineland, ☎ 609-691-3000 (boating, fishing, picnicking).

Harold N. Peek Preserve, off Highway 47 & Lilac Avenue, south of Millville, ☎ 856-447-3425 (birdwatching, hiking).

Manumuskin River Preserve, Schooner Landing Road, west of Port Elizabeth, ☎ 609-861-0600 (rare plants and animals, including terns, eagles and ospreys).

Peaslee Wildlife Management Area, Route 644, ☎ 609-785-0455 (hunting).

South Vineland Park, West Elmer Road, Vineland, ☎ 609-691-3000 (swimming, picnicking).

Stow Creek State Park, Route 623 & Stow Creek, Landing Road, Stow Creek, ☎ 856-935-3218 (boating, hunting, fishing, hiking, birding).

Union Lake Wildlife Management Area, Sharpes Street, ☎ 856-629-4950 (boating, fishing, hunting).

Essex County

Branch Brook Park, Roosevelt Avenue, Newark, ☎ 973-268-8500 (fishing, hiking, picnicking). Known for its Japanese cherry trees, usually blooming in mid-April.

Brookdale Park, Grove Street, Bloomfield & Montclair, ☎ 973-268-3500 (hiking, picnicking, tennis courts). Contains a rose garden with 140 varieties, over 1,200 rose bushes in all.

Eagle Rock Reservation, Eagle Rock Avenue, West Orange, ☎ 973-268-3500 (hiking, horseback riding, picnicking).

Mills Reservation, Reservoir Drive, Cedar Grove, ☎ 973-268-3500 (hiking).

South Mountain Reservation, Northfield, Road & South Orange Avenue, South Orange, Maplewood, Millburn, West Orange, ☎ 973-268-3500 (zoo, miniature train ride, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, cross-country skiing, indoor ice skating).

Verona Park, Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, ☎ 973-268-3500 (boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Weequahic County Park, Elizabeth Avenue, Newark, ☎ 973-268-3500 (fishing, hiking, picnicking).

West Essex County Park, Eisenhower Parkway, Livingston, Roseland, West Caldwell, ☎ 973-268-3500 (environmental studies center, walking trails).

Gloucester County

James J. Atkinson Park, Delsea Drive & Bethel Mill Road, Hurffville, ☎ 856-589-0047 (picnicking, playgrounds, jogging, bicycling).

Glassboro Wildlife Management Area, Fries Mill Road, Glassboro and Clayton townships, ☎ 609-629-0090 (hunting).

Greenwich Lake Park, Tomlin Station Road, Gibbstown, ☎ 856-468-0100 (swimming, picnicking).

Red Bank Battlefield Park, 100 Hessian Avenue, Woodbury, ☎ 856-468-0100 (historical attraction, fishing, picnicking).

Scotland Run Park, 980 Academy Street, Franklinville, ☎ 856-881-0845 (nature center, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Hudson County

Bayonne Park, Kennedy Boulevard, Bayonne, ☎ 201-915-1385 (fishing, crabbing, picnicking).

James J. Braddock, North Hudson Park, Kennedy Boulevard, North Bergen, ☎ 201-319-3747 (fishing, picnicking, birdwatching).

Liberty State Park, Morris Pesin Drive, Jersey City, ☎ 201-915-3400 (historical attractions, science center, boating, swimming, fishing, natural area, hiking, crabbing).

Lincoln Park, Kennedy Boulevard, Jersey City, ☎ 201-915-1385 (natural area, fishing, picnicking).

Hunterdon County

Assiscong Marsh Natural Area, River Road, Raritan Township, ☎ 908-788-1484 (birding).

Charleston Reserve (take Interstate 78 east exit 11; from exit 11, travel north on Route 635, also known as Charlestown Rd., for 4.5 miles to the park), Bethlehem Township, ☎ 908-788-1158 (hiking, hunting).

Cold Brook Preserve (take Interstate 78 east to exit 24, Oldwick/Whitehouse, then proceed north from this exit on Route 523 towards Oldwick; continue straight on Route 517 when Route 523 turns to the right, and after passing through the center of Oldwick, the park entrance will be on the left), Tewksbury Township, ☎ 908-788-1158 (hunting).

Cushetunk Mountain Nature Preserve, Old Mountain Road, Clinton & Readington Townships, ☎ 908-788-1158 (bicycling, hiking).

Deer Path Park West, Woodschurch Road, Readington Township, ☎ 908-788-1158 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Bull's Island Recreation Area, 2185 Daniel Bray Highway, Stockton, ☎ 609-397-2949 (camping, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding).

Ken Lockwood Gorge Wildlife Management Area, Raritan River Road, off Route 639, High Bridge, ☎ 908-735-8793 (fishing, hunting, birdwatching).

Point Mountain, Point Mountain Road (at the northernmost tip of Hunterdon County), ☎ 908-788-1158 (hiking, fishing, mountain biking).

Round Valley Recreation Area, 1220 Lebanon-Stanton Road/Route 629, Lebanon, ☎ 908-236-6355 (camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picicking, birdwatching, horseback riding, cross-country skiing).

Sourland Mountain Reservation, Rileyville Road/Route 607, East Amwell Township, ☎ 908-782-1158 (undeveloped).

South Branch Nature Preserve, Echo Hill, Lilac Drive, Clinton Township, ☎ 908-788-1158 (fishing, picnicking, hiking, cross-country skiing).

Spruce Run State Park, One Van Syckels Road, Clinton, ☎ 908-638-6969 (camping, boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Tower Hill Reserve, Mountain View Road, Bethlehem Township, ☎ 908-788-1158 (hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting).

Voorhees State Park, 251 County Road/Route 513, Glen Gardner, ☎ 908-638-6969 (hiking, camping).

Mercer County

Charles H. Rogers Wildlife Refuge and Princeton Institute Woods, Olden Lane, Princeton, ☎ 609-734-8000 (birdwatching, hiking).

Hamilton Veterans Park, Klockner Road, Hamilton Township, ☎ 609-890-3684 (fishing, hiking, Picnicking). This park holds an annual Septemberfest event in September that is extremely well-attended.

Herrontown Woods, Snowden Lane, Princeton, ☎ 609-989-6530.

John A. Roebling Park, Sewell Avenue, Hamilton Township, ☎ 609-987-6530 (fishing, picnicking, hiking, birdwatching).

Mercer County Park, Old Trenton Road/Route 535 or Hughes Drive, West Windsor Township, ☎ 609-989-6530 (boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, indoor ice skating).

Princeton Battlefield State Park, 500 Mercer Street/Princeton Pike, Princeton Township, ☎ 609-921-0074 (historical attraction, hiking, picnicking). This park contains the Thomas Clarke House, a Colonial farmhouse converted to a museum of 18th-century life. It also contains a sapling grown from the remnants of the recently destroyed Mercer Oak, the tree under which General Hugh Mercer, Mercer County's namesake, lay mortally wounded during the Battle of Princeton.

Rosedale Park, Federal City Road, Hopewell Township, ☎ 609-989-6530 (boating, fishing, birdwatching, picnicking).

Sayen Park Botanical Garden, 155 Hughes Drive, Hamilton Township, ☎ 609-890-3543 (gardens with rhododendrons and azaleas).

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Nature Preserve, 31 Titus Mill Road, Pennington, ☎ 609-737-3735 (nature center, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing).

Washington Crossing State Park, Route 546, Hopewell Township, ☎ 609-737-0623 (historical attractions, nature center, natural area, camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing).

Middlesex

Cheesequake State Park, exit 120 off the Garden State Parkway, Matawan, ☎ 732-566-2161 (interpretive center, camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, crabbing, cross-country skiing).

Cook Natural Area, Ridge Road, South Brunswick Township, ☎ 732-873-3050 (hiking).

Davidson's Mill Pond Park, Riva Avenue, South Brunswick Township, ☎ 732-745-3900 (fishing, hiking).

Donaldson Park, 2nd Avenue, Highland Park, ☎ 732-745-3900 (fishing, picnicking).

Edison Park, Mill Road, Edison, ☎ 732-745-3900 (sports).

Heylar Woods, Fruit Tree Road, New Brunswick, ☎ 732-932-9211 (hiking).

Jamesburg County Park, Helmetta Boulevard, Helmetta, ☎ 732-745-3900 (fishing, boating, hiking).

Johnson Park, River Road, Piscataway, ☎ 732-745-3900 (small zoo, fishing, picnicking).

Joseph Medwick Park, Post Boulevard & Pauline Street, Carteret, ☎ 732-745-3900 (picnicking, bicycling).

Merrill Park, Merrill Turnpike, Woodbridge, ☎ 732-745-3900 (small zoo, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Raritan Bay Waterfront Park, O'Leary Boulevard, South Amboy & Sayreville, ☎ 732-745-3900 (sports, hiking, bicycling, playground).

Roosevelt Park, Oakwood Avenue, Edison, ☎ 732-745-3900 (fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Spring Lake Park, Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, ☎ 732-745-3900 (bicycling, fishing, playground).

Thompson Park, Forsgate Drive, Jamesburg, ☎ 732-745-3900 (animal preserve, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Warren Park, Florida Grove Road, Woodbridge, ☎ 732-745-3900 (hiking, picnicking).

Monmouth County

Allaire State Park, Allaire Road/Route 524, Farmingdale, ☎ 732-938-2371 (historical attractions, full-size railroad, camping, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, birdwatching).

Assunpink Wildlife Management, East Branch Road, Upper Freehold Township, ☎ 609-259-2132 (fishing, birdwatching, hunting, boating).

Bayshore Waterfront Park, Port Monmouth Road, Port Monmouth, ☎ 732-787-3033 (fishing, boat-launching).

Cheesequake State Park, 300 Gordon Road, Matawan, ☎ 732-566-2161 (camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking).

Deep Cut Gardens, 352 Red Hill Road, Middletown, ☎ 732-671-6050 (gardens, hiking).

Dorbrook Park, Colts Neck, ☎ 732-842-4000 (hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, ☎ 732-872-0115 (historical attractions, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, windsurfing, bicycling).

Hartshorne Woods Park, Navesink Avenue, Middletown, ☎ 732-872-0336 (hiking, scenic overlooks).

Holmdel Park, Longstreet Road, Holmdel, ☎ 732-842-4000 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing). This park contains Longstreet Farm, a living history farm representing farm life in Monmouth County in the 1890s.

Huber Woods Park, 25 Brown's Dock Road, Middletown Township, ☎ 732-872-2670 (hiking, picnicking, horseback riding).

Monmouth Battlefield State Park, Highway 33, Manalapan Township, ☎ 732-462-9616 (historical attractions, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Poricy Park, Oak Hill Road, Middletown, ☎ 732-842-4000 (historical attractions, nature center, hiking).

Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park, Ocean Avenue, Long Branch, ☎ 732-229-0924 (boating, swimming, picnicking). This park is named in honor of the seven American presidents who vacationed in the Long Branch area.

Shark River Park, School House Road, Neptune Township, ☎ 732-842-4000 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Tatum Park, Red Hill Road, Middletown Township, ☎ 732-842-4000 (hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Thompson Park, Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, ☎ 732-842-4000 (boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing). Thompson Park is known for its enormous collection of roses, which bloom from May through September.

Turkey Swamp Park, Georgia Road, Freehold Township, ☎ 732-462-7286 (camping, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Walnford Park, Walnford Road, Upper Freehold Township, ☎ 732-842-4000 (historical attractions, fishing).

Morris County

Allamuchy Mountain State Park, Stephens Section, 180 Stephens Park Road, Hackettstown, ☎ 973-852-3790 (camping, fishing, picnicking).

Black River Park, Chester Township, ☎ 973-326-7600 (fishing, picnicking, exploring the Historic Cooper Mill, Morris County's oldest gristmill).

Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, 152 Pleasant Plains Road, Basking Ridge, ☎ 973-425-1222 (wildlife observation center, hiking, birdwatching).

Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center, 247 Southern Boulevard, Chatham, ☎ 973-635-6629 (hiking, birdwatching, environmental education).

Hacklebarney State Park, 119 Hacklebarney Road, Chester Township, ☎ 973-638-6969 (fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Hedden Park, Reservoir Avenue, Dover, ☎ 973-326-7600 (boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, ☎ 973-398-7010 (boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking).

Lewis Morris Park, 270 Mendham Road, Mendham Township, ☎ 973-326-7600 (boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Loantaka Brook Reservation, Kitchell Road & South Street, Chatham, Harding, & Morris townships, ☎ 973-326-7600 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, biking, cross-country skiing). Contains horse barns and a half-mile track.

Mahlon Dickerson Reservation, Weldon Road, Jefferson Township, ☎ 973-663-0200 (camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing).

Morristown National Historic Park, 30 Washington Place, Morristown, ☎ 973-539-2016 (hiking, historical exploration, horseback riding, cross-country skiing; Jockey Hollow has annual reenactments of Washington's army winter camps, historic videos and a bookstore).

Mount Hope Historic Park, Teabo Road, Rockaway Township, ☎ 973-326-7600 (hiking, historic sites).

Old Troy Park, Reynolds Avenue, Parsippany-Troy Hills Township, ☎ 973-326-7600 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Passaic River Park, River Road, Chatham and Passaic Townships, ☎ 973-326-7600 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Patriots' Path Park, Medham, Morris, Hanover and East Hanover townships, ☎ 973-326-7600 (fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing).

Schooley's Mountain Park, Springtown Road, Washington Township, ☎ 973-326-7600 (boating, swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Silas Condict Park, Ricker Road, Kinnelon Borough, ☎ 973-326-7600 (boating fishing, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Tourne Park, 40 McCaffrey Lane, Boonton and Denville Townships, ☎ 973-326-7600 (hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing). Tourne Park contains the Eleanor Hinricksen Bird Sanctuary and the Hammond Wildflower Trail.

Ocean County

A. Paul King Park, Highway 72, Manahawkin, ☎ 732-506-9090 (swimming, fishing, picnicking).

Barnegat Lighthouse State Park, Broadway Avenue, Barnegat Light, ☎ 609-494-2016 (fishing, picnicking, hiking).

Beaver Dam Creek County Park, Bridge Aveue, ☎ 732-506-9090 (hiking).

Berkeley Island County Park, Brennan Concourse, Bayville, ☎ 732-506-9090 (swimming, fishing, crabbing, picnicking).

Cattus Island County Park, 1170 Cattus Island Boulevard, Toms River, ☎ 732-270-6960 (environmental center, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area, Hawkins Road, Colliers Mills, ☎ 609-259-2132 (hunting, fishing).

Double Trouble State Park, Double Trouble Road, Lacey Township, ☎ 732-341-6662 (historical attractions, cranberry farm, boating, hiking).

Eno's Pond County Park, East Lacey Road, Forked River, ☎ 732-506-9090 (hiking, birding).

Forked River Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Lacey Township, ☎ 609-259-2132 (hiking, hunting, bird watching).

Great Bay Wildlife Management Area, Great Bay Boulevard, Little Egg Harbor, ☎ 609-259-2132 (fishing, boating, birdwatching, clamming, crabbing, waterfowl hunting).

Greenwood Forest and Pasadena Wildlife Management Area, Route 539, ☎ 609-259-2132 (fishing, hiking, hunting).

Island Beach State Park, Central Avenue, Seaside Park, ☎ 732-793-0506 (natural areas, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, biking, surfing, scuba diving, fishing, birdwatching).

Lake Shenandoah County Park, Clover Street, Lakewood Township, ☎ 732-506-9090 (boating, fishing).

Manahawkin Wildlife Management Area, Hilliard Boulevard, Stafford Township, ☎ 609-259-2132 (natural areas, fishing, crabbing, hunting).

Manchester Wildlife Management Area, Herrion Boulevard, Manchester Township, ☎ 609-259-2132 (hunting).

Mill Creek County Park, Mill Creek Road, Bayville, ☎ 732-506-9090 (bird watching, hiking).

Ocean County Park, Ocean Avenue/Highway 88, Lakewood Township, ☎ 732-506-9090 (swimming, fishing, picnicking).

Stafford Forge Wildlife Management Area, Route 539, Eagleswood & Little Egg Harbor Townships, ☎ 609-259-2132 (fishing, hunting).

Stanley H. Seaman County Park, Route 9, Tuckerton, ☎ 609-296-5606 (swimming, picnicking). The visitor center at this park has a display of duck decoys.

Wells Mills County Park, Route 532, 905 Wells Mills Road, Waretown, ☎ 609-971-3085 (nature center, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Passaic County

Abram S. Hewitt State Forest, 885 Warwick Turnpike, Hewitt, ☎ 973-853-4462 (hiking, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing).

Farny State Park, Route 513, Rockaway, ☎ 973-962-7031 (hiking, bird watching, fishing, cross-country skiing).

Garrett Mountain Reservation, Valley Road, Paterson, ☎ 973-881-4832 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, historical attraction). The park contains Lambert Castle, a national historic landmark. The park also boards and rents horses.

Goffle Brook Park, Goffle Road, Hawthorne, ☎ 973-881-4832 (fishing, picnicking).

Long Pond Iron Works State Park, Route 511, ☎ 973-962-7031 (boating, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, historical attraction).

Norvin Green State Forest, Ringwood, ☎ 973-962-7031 (hiking, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing).

Ramapo Mountain State Forest, 1304 Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood, ☎ 973-962-7031 (fishing, hiking, hunting).

Rifle Camp Park, Rifle Camp Road, West Paterson, ☎ 973-881-4832 (nature center, seismograph, astronomical observatory, hiking, picnicking, cross-country skiing).

Ringwood State Park, 1304 Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood, ☎ 973-962-7031 (historical attractions, flowering gardens, boating, swimming, dishing, hiking, picnicking, hunting, cross-country skiing).

Skylands Manor, 1304 Sloatsburg Road, Ringwood, ☎ 973-963-7031 (hiking, mountain biking).

Wawayanda State Park, 885 Warwick Turnpike, Hewitt, ☎ 973-853-4462 (camping, swimming, boating, hiking).

Salem County

Camp Crockett Park, Mills Road, Pittsgrove Township (picnicking, hiking, playgrounds).

Fort Mott State Park, 454 Fort Mott Road, Pennsville Township, ☎ 856-935-3218 (crabbing, fishing, picnicking).

Parvin State Park, 701 Almond Road, Pittsgrove, ☎ 856-358-8616 (natural areas, cabins, camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching).

Salem River Wildlife Management Area, Highway 45, Salem, ☎ 856-629-0090 (birdwatching).

Somerset County

Colonial Park, 156 Metlars Road, Franklin Township, ☎ 908-722-1200 (fishing, boating, hiking, picnicking). Colonial Park contains the Rudolph van der Goot Rose Garden, with more than 4,000 roses.

Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park, 625 Canal Road, Somerset, ☎ 732-873-3050 (historic area, camping, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding).

Duke Island Park, Old York Road/Route 567, Bridgewater, ☎ 908-722-1200 (wildlife exhibits, boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Hutcheson Memorial Forest, Amwell Road, East Millstone, ☎ 908-879-7262 (contains trees that are over 300 years old).

Lord Stirling Park, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, ☎ 908-722-1200 (environmental center, natural history displays, horseback riding, hiking, birdwatching).

North Branch Park, North Branch, 355 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, ☎ 908-722-1200 (fishing, picnicking, model aircraft flying).

Washington Rock State Park, Washington Rock Road, Green Brook, ☎ 201-915-3404 (picnicking, hiking).

Sussex County

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, ☎ 973-496-4458 (exploring historic Millbrook Village, camping, boating/canoeing, fishing, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, rock climbing, ice skating, cross-country skiing).

High Point State Park, 1480 Highway 23, ☎ 973-875-4800 (natural areas, cabins, camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnick-

ing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, mountain biking).

Hopatcong State Park, Lakeside Boulevard, Landing, ☎ 973-398-7010 (boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking).

Kittatinny Valley State Park, Andover, ☎ 973-786-6445 (fishing, biking, hiking, boating, horseback riding).

Stokes State Forest, 1 Coursen Road, Branchville, ☎ 973-948-3820 (natural areas, cabins, camping, boating, swimming, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, with nearly 50 miles of trails, picnicking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing).

Swartswood State Park, East Shore Drive/Route 619, Swartswood, ☎ 973-383-5230 (camping, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing).

Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, 1547 Route 565, Sussex, ☎ 973-702-7266 (birding, hiking, fishing).

Wawayanda State Park, 885 Warwick Turnpike, Hewitt, ☎ 973-853-4462 (natural areas, boating, swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, hunting, horseback riding, cross-country skiing).

Union County

Echo Lake Park, Mountain Avenue, Mountainside, ☎ 908-527-4900 (boating, picknicking).

Passaic River Park, Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights & New Providence, ☎ 908-527-4900 (fishing, picnicking).

Rahway River Park, Rahway, ☎ 908-527-4900 (fishing, picnicking).

Warinanco Park, St. Georges Avenue, Roselle, ☎ 908-527-4900 (boating, fishing, picnicking).

Watchung Reservation, New Providence & Mountainside, ☎ 908-527-4900 (historical attractions, nature & science center, fishing, hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing).

Warren County

Allamuchy Mountain State Park, 800 Willow Grove Street, Allamuchy Township, ☎ 908-852-3790 (boating, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding).

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, ☎ 908-496-4458 (exploring historic Millbrook Village, camping, boating/canoeing,

fishing, hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, rock climbing, ice skating, cross-country skiing).

Jenny Jump State Forest, Shiloh Road, Hope, ☎ 908-459-4366 (cabins, camping, fishing, hiking, picnicking).

Merrill Creek Reservoir Environmental Preserve, 34 Merrill Creek Road, Harmony, ☎ 908-454-1213 (boating, fishing, hiking, cross-country skiing).

Oxford Furnace Lake Park, Kauffman Drive, Oxford Township, (boating, swimming, fishing, picnicking).

Pequest Wildlife Management Area, Pequest Road, Oxford Township, ☎ 908-637-4125 (fishing, hiking, picnicking, hunting). A unique feature is the Pequest Trout Hatchery.

Stephens State Park, 800 Willow Grove Street, Hackettstown, ☎ 908-852-3790 (hiking, horseback riding, fishing, cross-country skiing).

Worthington State Forest, Old Mine Road, Columbia, ☎ 908-841-9575 (natural areas, camping, boating, fishing, hiking, hunting).

Wine Tours, Tasting & Wineries

The **Garden State Wine Growers Association** (☎ 609-588-0085; www.newjerseywines.com). New Jersey has a fruitful wine-growing industry. It isn't mentioned in the same breath as France's or California's yet. However, New Jersey wines have been winning national awards, and the Garden State currently ranks as the fifth-largest wine producing state in America, with more than 1,000,000 gallons produced annually. That's a lot of cheese and cracker refreshment.

You might be surprised to know that wine-making in New Jersey is a tradition dating back over 200 years. From 1933 to 1981, the number of wineries in the state was officially limited to one for every million inhabitants. But the Farm Act of 1981 removed this restriction, and today the industry has grown to a healthy total of close to 20 wineries, with more springing up every year. In 2001 New Jersey's wineries produced more than 140,000 gallons, about one million bottles.

A wineries excursion is hidden travel treasure in the Garden State. Eighteen wineries are highlighted in a free color brochure available

from the New Jersey Wine Growers Association. It has descriptions of each winery, directions, and operating hours, among other things.

A wineries trip is a great way to spend a relaxing weekend day. Many of them run special events on the weekends. Drive through some gorgeous countryside, arrive at an attractive winery, sample some of the product, and then come home with a basket full of your favorites. What makes such a trip easy is that many of the wineries are relatively close to each other, so it's easy to visit several in one day.

Spring and fall are the best seasons to catch a wine festival and, if you've never been to one, you might be surprised at the breadth of activities a festival offers. Typically, there is wine, of course, but there frequently is live music and kids' attractions like face painting and pony rides. For the non-wine drinkers festivals are often combined with good music, craft shows, and other attractions. Then there's the food. It all boils down to a really fun time for all involved.

The listing below is just bare bones – the wineries, location and hours of operation. The brochure will tell you more. All the facilities gladly offer tours, but groups should call ahead for an appointment.

Atlantic County

Balic Winery
6623 Highway 40
Mays Landing
☎ 609-625-2166
An indoor and outdoor café makes this fabulous winery even better.

Belleview Winery
150 Atlantic Street
Landisville
☎ 856-697-7172
A tasting room, gift shops, award winning wines, located in a renovated barn.

Renault Winery
72 N. Bremen Avenue
Egg Harbor
☎ 609-965-2111
The granddaddy of them all. Great scenery, a great tour and great wine/food.

Slyvin Farms
24 North Vienna Avenue
Germania
☎ 609-965-1548
This smaller winery produces wines of mighty taste.

Tomasello Winery
25 White Horse Pike
Hammonton
☎ 800-666-9463
The uniquely decorated Vinters Room, plus great wines, makes this a stand-out. This is the largest winery in New Jersey.

Burlington County

Valenzano Winery
340 Forked Neck Road
Shamong
☎ 609-268-6731
Located in the famous Pinelands town of Shamong, this winery, like many others, offers custom labels for your own cellar.

Camden County

Amalthea Cellars
209 Vineyard Road
Atco
☎ 856-768-8585
So far the only winery located in Camden County, Amalthea Cellars features a tasting room and gifts.

Cape May County

Cape May Winery & Vineyard
709 Townbank Road
Cape May
☎ 609-884-1169
Although it's open only from May through October, the gourmet foods, wines, and event areas provide good fun and good food.

Gloucester County

Heritage Vineyards of Richwood
480 Mullica Hill (Route 322).
Richwood, NJ 08074
☎ 856-589-4474
One of the new kids on the block among the state's wineries, big things are expected from Gloucester County's first winery.

Hunterdon County

Amwell Valley Vineyard
480 Mullica Hill (Route 322)
Ringoes
☎ 908-788-5852
A tasting room, gifts, custom labels, indoor and outdoor event areas, great wines, a great location in the Sourland Mountains.

King's Road Vineyard
360 Route 579
Asbury
☎ 800-479-6479
Enjoying a sip of King's Road wines on the lovely deck overlooking the vineyard just defines the word relaxation.

Unionville Vineyards
9 Rocktown Road
Ringoes
☎ 908-788-0400
Tally ho! Even if you don't say it out loud, you'll be thinking it when you see the fox hunting decorating themes here.

Mercer County

Hopewell Valley Vineyard
46 Yard Road
Pennington
☎ 609-529-6010
www.hopewellvalleyvineyards.com

Silver Decoy Winery
610 Windsor-Perrineville Road
Robbinsville
www.silverdecoywinery.com
Started by eight guys who like wine.

Monmouth County

Cream Ridge Winery
Route 539
Cream Ridge
☎ 609-259-9797
This cozy but attractive winery has a tasting room, gourmet foods, indoor and outdoor events, and more. They are noted for their fruit wines.

Warren County

Alba Vineyard
269 Route 627
Milford
☎ 908-995-7800
The location here is so beautiful, it just seems natural that a winery is located here.

Four Sisters Winery at Matarazzo Farms
Route 519
Belvidere
☎ 908-475-3671
A busy slate of special events, great wines, and the fact that this is a working farm make this winery unique and fun.

Apple Time

There are few things better in life than a delicious New Jersey apple (unless, of course, it's a New Jersey peach, blueberry, cranberry, tomato…). There's also nothing better than buying these fruits directly from the source, or even picking them by hand! So after you've got the wine, why not try picking up some New Jersey apples to go along with it? Below is a listing of places by county to find them (PYO means Pick Your Own).

Atlantic County

Butterhof's Shady Brook Farm,5800 White Horse Pike, Egg Harbor (☎ 609-965-1285).

Donato Brothers, 337 Weymouth Road, Landisville (☎ 856-697-0404).

Pastore Orchards, Whitehorse Pike, Hammonton (☎ 609-561-8464).

Pleasant Valley Farm, 4520 Harfing Highway/Highway 40, Mays Landing (☎ 609-625-8463).

Bergen County

Demarest Farm, 244 Weirimus Road, Hillsdale (☎ 201-666-0472). PYO.

Burlington County

Conte Farms, 299 Flyatt Road, Tabernacle (☎ 609-268-1010). PYO.

Russo's Orchard Lane Farm, 310 Extonville Road, Chesterfield (☎ 609-259-3684). PYO

Russo's Fruit & Vegetable Farm, 529 Medford Lakes & Carranza Road, Tabernacle (☎ 609-268-0239).

Winners Farm, 12 South Forklanding Road, Cinnaminson (☎ 856-786-8626).

Cumberland County

Badaracco Farms, Inc., 954 Union Road, Vineland (☎ 856-691-5531).

DeCou's Farm Market & Orchard, Highway 49, Shiloh (☎ 856-451-7908).

Sunny Slope Farms of NJ, 400 Greenwich Road, Bridgeton (☎ 856-451-0022).

Gloucester County

Fruit Haven Farms, 610 Monroeville Road, Monroeville (☎ 856-358-0728).

Fruitwood Farms, Inc., 419 Elk Road/Route 538, Monroeville (☎ 856-881-7748). PYO.

Heilig Orchards, 211 Heilig Road, Richwood (☎ 856-589-0241).

Heritage Station, 480 Mullica Hill Road/Route 322, Richwood (☎ 856-589-4474). PYO.

Mood's Farm Market, 901 Bridgeton Pike/Highway 77, Mullica Hill (☎ 856-478-2500). PYO.

Mt. Pleasant Orchards, 160 Richwood Road/Route 609, Richwood (☎ 856-589-4407).

Orchardville Fruit Stand, Routes 553 & 538, Monroeville (☎ 856-881-1004).

Zee Orchards, 708 Mullica Hill Road, Richwood (☎ 856-589-3891).

Hunterdon County

Melick's Town Farm, 19 King Street, Oldwick (☎ 908-439-3888). PYO.

Melick's Orchards, 472 Route 513, Califon (☎ 908-439-3888). PYO.

Mountain Top Orchard, 112 Mountain Top Road, Glen Gardner (☎ 908-537-2979).

Peaceful Valley Orchards, 441 Pittstown Road, Pittstown (☎ 908-797-4996). PYO.

Mercer County

Lee Turnkey Farm, 201 Hickory Corner Road, Hightstown (☎ 609-448-0629). PYO.

Pineland Farms at Trenton Farmers' Market, 960 Spruce Street, Trenton (☎ 609-392-1550).

Terhune Orchards, 330 Cold Soil Road, Princeton (☎ 609-924-2310).

Monmouth County

Battleview Orchards, 91 Wemrock Road, Freehold (☎ 732-462-0756). PYO.

Eastmont Orchards, 169 County Road East/Route 537, Colts Neck (☎ 732-542-5404). PYO.

Geiser's Farms, 1859 New Bedford Road, Wall Township (☎ 732-449-1862).

Morris County

Alstede Farms, Route 513, Chester (☎ 908-879-7189). PYO.

Hacklebarney Farm, LLC, 104 State Park Road, Chester (☎ 908-879-6593).

Hillview Farms, 223 Meyersville Road, Gillette (☎ 908-647-0957). PYO.

Parks Farm, Highway 24, Chester (☎ 908-879-5509).

Riamede Farm, 122 Oakdale Road, Chester (☎ 908-879-5353). PYO.

Sun High Orchard, 19 Canfield Avenue, Randolph (☎ 973-584-4734).

Wightman's Farm, 1111 Mt. Kemble Avenue, Morristown (☎ 973-425-9819). PYO.

Salem County

Larchmont Farms, Inc., Highway 77, Elmer (☎ 856-358-0700).

Wm. Schobere Sons, Inc., 1125 Monroeville Road, Monroeville (☎ 856-694-1212).

Sussex County

Beemerville Orchards, 73 Lusscroft Road, Sussex (☎ 973-875-3729).

Everitts Fruit Farm & Cider Mill, Highway 15, Lafayette (☎ 973-383-5463).

Layton Orchard, 34 Ridge Road, Layton (☎ 973-948-6770).

Pochuck Valley Farm, Route 517/Glenwood Road, Glenwood (☎ 973-764-4732). PYO.

Warren County

Apgar Cider Press, 352 Harmony Brass Castie Road, Phillipsburg (☎ 908-859-2988).

Best's Fruit Farm, 40A Highway 46, Hackettstown (☎ 908-852-3777).

Mackey's Orchard, 284 Route 519, Belvidere (☎ 908-475-1507). PYO.

Race's Farm Market, 93 Belcher Road, Blairstown (☎ 908-362-8151). PYO.

Stoneyfield Orchards, 5 Orchard Street, Belvidere (☎ 908-475-5209).

Tree-Licious Orchards, 135 Karrville Road, Port Murray (☎ 908-689-2906).

Take You Out to the Ballgame

Turn the clock back to the beginning of the 1990s. Minor league baseball in New Jersey was a distant memory. Years before, the state had had a great minor league tradition. The Newark Bears had been one of the New York Yankees' top minor league affiliates, there had been a New York Giants' minor league club in Trenton (where Willie Mays played for a bit at the beginning of his career), and the state in general was humming with baseball activity. But quicker than you can say "Game Called," teams closed up shop and moved away, and baseball abandoned the state in which it had been born. (You don't still believe that fiction about Abner Doubleday and Cooperstown, do you?)

But then a funny thing happened. In the early 1990s someone got the bright idea to move an existing franchise to Trenton. It seemed to be a good idea; after all, with the area a hotbed of Yankee, Phillie and Met fans, there was enough baseball enthusiasm to go around.

The rechristened **Trenton Thunder** made its debut in 1994 (oddly enough, as an affiliate of the Detroit Tigers) and tickets to see them quickly became hot. The enthusiasm generated by the Thunder rapidly multiplied until, by the spring of 2003, there were over a half-dozen minor league franchises plying their trade in New Jersey.

Minor league baseball is a fun and reasonably priced alternative to the expensive major league variety. When you throw in the fact that the stadiums the teams play in are new and devoted to fan comfort, and that all of the teams do their utmost to keep people involved in the game, you have a great recipe for a family fun outing at the ballpark. It's also nice watching players who don't make more money than the GNP of some Third World countries. Usually, these players are very generous with their time, and are quite willing to sign autographs.

Teams are scattered all about New Jersey, from the north to the south, and the shore to the cities. Below is a listing of each team, and the county and city in which they play. So, what are you waiting for? Play Ball!

Atlantic County

Atlantic City Surf (545 North Albany Avenue, Atlantic City, ☎ 609-344-SURF).
The Surf play in the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball Clubs. This is an independent minor league not affiliated with any professional team. Thus, you have a mixture of ballplayers, from former major league players trying to hang on, to kids trying to make an impression on the pro ranks. But that doesn't mean the games are any less intense or competitive. The Surf play in the new Sandcastle, a beautiful new stadium that seats nearly 6,000, has a great view of the Atlantic City skyline, and provides all the amenities a guest could want.

Camden County

Camden Riversharks (Camden, ☎ 856-963-2600).
Slowly but surely, Camden is digging itself out of the enormous urban hole it got itself into in the 1960s and 1970s, when it was little more than a national joke. The Riversharks, another Atlantic League entry, are yet a further step toward respectability. The Riversharks play in beautiful new Campbell's Field, a 6,400-seat edifice on the waterfront whose name evokes the city's storied past. Parking is plentiful, nearby and cheap, and the Riversharks play a hustling, gambling brand of baseball that makes it fun to watch.

Essex County

Newark Bears (450 Broad Street, Newark, ☎ 973-483-6900).
In 1999, the Newark Bears revived one of the great names in professional baseball by resuming play in the marvelous 6,200-seat Den. Like the Surf, the Bears play in the Atlantic League. This is another first-class ballpark, and the action on the field is top notch.

New Jersey Jackals (Valley Road, Montclair State University, Montclair, ☎ 973-746-7434).
The Jackals are a member of the Northern League, another independent minor league. The League plays a short season of 86 games (compared to the other teams that play around 125), evenly split between home and away games. So if you want to see the Jackals you'd better get going, because they're not there very long. They play in Yogi Berra Stadium, which seats 3,800 and has another 4,000 lawn seats. The stadium is on the campus of Montclair State University.

Mercer County

Trenton Thunder (1 Thunder Road, Trenton, ☎ 609-394-TEAM).
If you don't like baseball, blame the Thunder, because they're the guys who started it all. The Thunder is the "Double AA" affiliate of the New York Yankees, and is as first-class as you would expect the most successful organization in sports history to be. The team plays in Waterfront Park, a gorgeous 6,400-seat stadium on the banks of the Delaware River that has spared no expense to make patrons comfortable. The Thunder front office staff wrote the book on keeping fans involved in the game, and they do a sensational job.

Ocean County

Lakewood BlueClaws (2 Stadium Way, Lakewood, ☎ 732-901-7000).
The BlueClaws are the "Single A" minor league affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies, which means you'll be watching a bunch of kids playing their butts off for a chance at the majors. The BlueClaws play in the awesome FirstEnergy Park, with seating for over 6,500 and grass seating for another 3,000. This is a great stadium in an easy-to-get-to location. Fun, fun, fun.

Somerset County

Somerset Patriots (1 Patriots Park, Bridgewater, ☎ 908-252-0700).
Another Atlantic League entry, the Patriots play in perhaps the nicest minor league facility in all of New Jersey: the 6,100-seat Somerset Ballpark. The seats come complete with cup holders, just to complete the illusion that you're at the movies and not the ballpark. The scoreboard is, by far, the major attraction of the facility, and perhaps any facility on the entire East Coast.

Sussex County

New Jersey Cardinals (94 Championship Place, Augusta, ☎ 973-579-7500).
And now we come to the shortest season of all. If you thought the Jackals' season was short, the Cardinals play only 76 games, equally divided between 38 at home and 38 away. The Cardinals are the "Single A" affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals major league team. Even though their stadium, Skylands Park, is fairly far up in northern New Jersey, it is worth a visit as it is a gorgeous facility with a gorgeous backdrop of woods, hills and trees.

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